



**Chairperson's Report of the Blended Meeting of Limerick City & County Council Climate Action,
Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee held on
Wednesday 08th October 2025 at 2.30pm.**

**Item 1 – Adopt minutes of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee
Meeting held on 20th May 2025.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2025 were proposed by Cllr. L. Galvin and seconded by Cllr. K. O'Hanlon.

Item 2 – Notices of Motion on the Tree Policy

Cllr S. Kiely (referred from September Council meeting) - I will move at the next Meeting of this Council that we review with speed the tree policy of this Local Authority to address shortcomings of the Council in this regard.

Cllr D. McSweeney (referred from the September Metro Meeting) - I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that we immediately review and amend the Limerick City and County Tree Policy 2024-2030.

Response

Limerick City and County Tree Policy 2024-2030 was adopted at the full Council meeting in May 2024. The tree policy was developed taking account of the best national and international guidance. The policy sets out the Council's position on the management and maintenance of the public tree stock

A lengthy discussion took place on the LCCC Tree Policy and on all aspects of tree management in the city and county. Members outlined multiple issues they have encountered regarding tree management. These included, health and safety issues, tree encroachment of property and footpaths, trees blocking light, risk of storm damage.

Senior Engineer Aidan Finn responded to the specific concerns and outlined the inadequacy of the annual budget allocated to tree management. Following further discussion, the members agreed the following recommendation.

Recommendation

Having regard to the need for more active tree management, this Council seeks a supplementary allocation in 2025 to address urgent cases and an increase in the 2026 allocation to €300,000. **It was agreed that this recommendation would be brought forward to the budgetary process.**

Item 3 – Notice of Motion - Cllr D. McSweeney (referred from July Council Meeting)

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that we examine the rollout of a Community Contracts Grant Scheme in advance of budget 2026.

Before Cllr. McSweeney read out his motion it was confirmed that as he is not a member of this SPC he could not propose or second the motion.

Response

The Environment and Climate Action department issue a number of grants to communities across Limerick. There is a community grant available for grass cutting where communities apply and receives a grant which is dependent on the amount of grass that is being maintained. There is also a grant for burial ground maintenance and both grants are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that communities receive an appropriate grant amount.

There are also grants available under the Communities Climate Action Fund and also Going for Gold which are administered by the Environment and Climate Action Department.

There may be a case for the Council to review community grants in general across the organisation to see the level of grants that are currently available and whether there is a need to provide further grant aid.

Following a discussion the motion was recommended. Proposed by Cllr. Galvin and seconded by Cllr. Kiely.

Item 4 – Discussion in advance of Public Consultation - New Cemeteries Byelaws – Brian Henry, Senior Executive Technician, Cemeteries Operations.

Mr Henry gave a presentation on the Cemeteries Bye-Laws review – MyPoint Consultation. The current bye-laws date from 2015 and now need to be reviewed in the context of the Limerick City and County Council Burial Ground strategy. The MyPoint Consultation will be available from October 2025 for six weeks. Terms of Reference for the review will be published on MyPoint. All participants will be asked to comment on whether they are satisfied with the provisions of the current byelaws, or whether they wish to see changes made to those byelaws. Advertising will go out on social media, LCCC website, email and newspapers. The hope is to have byelaws ready for ratification in Q2/Q3 2026.

Item 5 – Community Climate Action Fund, relaunch 2025 – Dr. Darren Barry, Community Climate Action Officer, Environment & Climate Action.

Dr. Barry gave a presentation on the launch of phase 2 of the Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP). A total of €811,000 has been allocated to Limerick City and County Council to work in partnership with communities, large and small, rural, and urban, within the borders of Limerick to build low carbon communities in a considered and structured way. The funding available is for small scale projects – less than €20,000, medium scale - €20,000 to €50,000 and large scale - €51,000 to €100,000. 10% of projects funded will be small scale, 40% medium and 50% large. Community groups must be not-for-profit organisations and projects will have to be completed within 18 months. 100% of the funding will be

provided. The programme launch date is 21st October 2025 with successful groups being advised on 31st March 2026.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Council would continue to write to the Department of Transport requesting maintenance funding for Active travel measures. Proposed by Cllr. Secas seconded by Cllr. Leddin.

Item 6 – Environment & Climate Action, Budgetary Considerations – Aidan Finn, Senior Engineer, Environment & Climate Action.

Mr A Finn gave a presentation on the Environment and Climate Action Budgetary Considerations for 2026. He advised the support of this SPC is being sought to address several areas of underfunding in the cemeteries and Parks sections. It is intended to propose:

1. Raise a loan of €10,027,500 to fund - Capital Development Programme of €8,355,000 and Specific Maintenance Backlog of €1,672,500.
2. Increase in Cemeteries Specific Maintenance budgets from €185,986 to €400,000. Maintain budget of €153,000 for Cemeteries Maintenance Grants and Awards.
3. Increase tree maintenance funding from €94,000 to €200,000.
4. Increase Westfield Wetlands maintenance budget from €5k to €50k.

It was agreed that these recommendations would be brought forward to the budgetary process.

Cllr Joe Leddin
Chairperson of the Climate Action Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee
14/10/2025

Recommendation 1 – Climate Action

That the Council write to the Department of Transport requesting ongoing maintenance funding for Active travel measures.