



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council

Pleanáil, Oidhreacht agus Com Ryder
Ceanncheathrú Chorpáraideach
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh
Cé na gCeannaithe
Luimneach, V94 EH90

Planning, Heritage and Ryder Cup
Corporate Headquarters
Limerick City and County Council
Merchant Quay
Limerick, V94 EH90

REPLY TO NOTICE OF MOTION

Reply to Notice of Motion for the September 2026 Meeting of Full Council to be held on Monday 28th September, 2026.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor A. Teskey

I will move at the next meeting for a variation to the Limerick Development Plan, to add the following to chapter 11 Development Management Standards, 11.7.2.1 Wind Energy:

"In addition to the above, the following local considerations will be taken into account by the Council in relation to any planning application;

- Impact on human health in relation to noise disturbance (including consistency with the World Health Organisations 2018 Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region), shadow flicker and air quality;"

Response:

It is not considered necessary to vary the Limerick Development Plan as the plan currently includes an extensive list of aspects to be considered during the planning assessment of any planning application for wind energy including noise and shadow flicker. These assessments are required as part of any Environmental Impact Assessment that would be submitted with any planning application. Limerick City and County Council requires a lower fixed noise limit for night that is below that set out in the 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities.

It would be unreasonable to include a requirement that planning applications be consistent with the World Health Organisation's 2018 Environmental Noise Guidelines for wind turbine noise as compliance cannot be tested and therefore not enforceable. There is no standard guidance or best practice available for assessing impact on turbine noise on human health. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage are currently undertaking a focused review of the 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines. The Forward Planning Section is currently awaiting the publication of the revised guidelines.

Maria Woods
Senior Planner
19/9/2026

COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2026

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

I will move that that this Council continue to work with the Gardai to focus on the issue of illegal parking in accessible parking spaces in Limerick, through expanding the “Think Before You Park Campaign” and issuing fines to motorists who illegally park in accessible spaces, particularly in areas where this occurs most frequently.

Reply:

Accessible parking spaces are a vital component of an inclusive transport network. They are designed to ensure that people with disabilities, reduced mobility, older persons and those with specific medical needs can access services, employment, education and social activities with dignity.

Traffic Wardens enforce the illegal use of ‘Accessible Parking Spaces’ and illegal parking on footpaths stringently. Limerick City and County Council continues to engage closely with An Garda Síochána regarding the ‘Think before you Park campaign’ through a combination of public awareness (social media campaigns and promotions) and targeted enforcement where issues are most prevalent.

Patricia Liddy,
Director of Services,
Transportation, Mobility & Public Realm
24th September 2026

COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Donohue

I will move at the next Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that the Council provides better oversight of reinstatement works on public roads and thoroughfares where trenches and excavations have been carried out by service providers.

Reply:

Local Authorities have statutory responsibility to protect the integrity of the public road network and ensure that reinstatement works carried out by utilities and other service providers are completed to the required standard.

Under the **Guidance for Managing Openings in Public Roads** (Purple Book), road opening license holders are responsible for carrying out excavation, backfilling and reinstatement works in accordance with the prescribed national standards. The guidelines specifically set out requirements for trench construction, compaction, materials, testing and final reinstatement.

The Council provides adequate oversight of reinstatement works when the works are carried out during the daily working hours. There is a tendency for a number of road opening licenses requiring the works to be carried out at night particularly on

- Strategic traffic routes
- Urban centres with high traffic volumes
- Roads where daytime closures would cause significant disruption

While night working can minimise traffic impacts, it creates a practical challenge for Local Authorities. Engineering and supervisory staff cannot reasonably be expected to attend every night-time excavation, particularly where multiple utility providers are operating across the County simultaneously. As a result, the Council relies on;

- License conditions
- Competency requirements for contractors
- Self-certification by utilities
- Periodic inspections rather than continuous supervision
- Defect identification during subsequent inspections

**Patricia Liddy, Director of Services,
Transportation, Mobility & Public Realm Directorate,
24th September 2026.**