

**LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL**

A Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 at 4.00 p.m.

The following were in attendance :

**IN THE CHAIR :** Cllr. J. Leddin, Mayor

**COUNCILLORS :** M. Hourigan, K. Leddin, J. Cronin, K. Kiely, J. Ryan, J. Gilligan, K. O'Hanlon, K. Walsh, G. McLoughlin, G. Fahy, D. Scully, L. Wallace, P. Kennedy, M. Byrne and J. Long

**STAFF :** Mr. T. Mackey, City Manager  
Mr. P. Dromey, Director of Service  
Mr. K. Lehane, Director of Service  
Mr. P. Dowling, Director of Service  
Mr. A. Wallace, Acting Director of Service  
Mr. J. Field, Head of Finance  
Mr. R. Tobin, Senior Planner  
Mr. V. Murray, Senior Engineer  
Mr. J. Harte, Senior Executive Engineer  
Mr. J. Delaney, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr. P. Foley, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr. R. McDermott, Senior Executive Technician  
Mr. T. Cooney, Traffic Wardens Supervisor  
Ms. E. Creamer, Staff Officer

**APOLOGIES :** Cllr. J. Houlihan

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Prior to the business proper of the meeting, His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Leddin, on his own behalf and on behalf of the other Members of City Council, extended a vote of sympathy to the Liston and Kelleher families on the tragic deaths of Michael Liston and Brian Kelleher and proposed that the meeting adjourn for five minutes as a mark of respect.

This was seconded by Cllr. Kiely and unanimously agreed.

The City Manager, on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff of the City Council associated with the votes of sympathy.

The Meeting then adjourned.

The Meeting reconvened at 4.15 p.m.

It was unanimously agreed to take Item No. 9 at this stage.

## **9. RECEIVE PRESENTATION ON THE CITY CENTRE REGENERATION AND ORBITAL ROUTE**

The City Manager said this presentation is the launch of the consultation process for the revitalisation and upgrading of the core of the city centre. This is the commencement of the process that will involve a lot of consultation with all relevant parties. A more detailed information day will be held in two weeks time for the Elected Members.

A Presentation was then made on the City Centre Regeneration and Orbital Route by Mr. Nicholas de Jong, Urban Designer and Mr. Tony Lynch, Consultant.

### **1. MINUTES**

On the proposition of Cllr. Hourigan, seconded by Cllr. Kiely, it was unanimously agreed:

“That the Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2007, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

Cllr. Ryan asked for an update on the alleged removal of a planning file from the planning office.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the City Manager and Officials examine the position and report back to the next City Council Meeting.

It was unanimously agreed to take Item Nos 2 and 11 together at this stage.

### **2. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2007**

The Chairman’s Report, Environmental Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2007, was noted.

Cllr. Wallace stated that at the Environmental Strategic Policy Committee Meeting she expressed her complete objection to the removal of the Chair of the Environmental SPC from the Independent Members and asked that the minutes be amended accordingly.

Submitted the following Recommendations from the Environmental Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 which were adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Long :

- (a) “That O’Brien Park be the chosen location in respect of the Local Authorities Playground Grants Scheme 2006”.
- (b) “To adopt the Litter Management Plan 2006 – 2008 and that it replace the existing Litter Management Plan”.

Cllr. Scully complimented all concerned on the O’Brien Park project and added that provision should be made for public toilets in this park.

Cllr. Cronin expressed concern at dog fouling on the streets and asked that this problem be addressed. He also referred to cigarette butts outside public houses and asked that publicans be obliged to provide bins for same.

Cllr. Hourigan expressed concern at overflowing wheelibins outside apartment blocks and asked that this matter be examined.

Cllr. Byrne stated that she received a number of complaints from residents about high powered engines in cars and asked if there is any legislation to address noise pollution.

Cllr. Fahy expressed concern at weeds especially in housing estates and asked that they be inspected and all weeds removed on a regular basis.

Cllr. O’Hanlon asked that consideration be given be extending the opening hours at the recycling centre at Park Road Depot to cover evening times and Saturdays.

Cllr. K. Leddin asked that the pedestrianised sweepers continue throughout the day. She suggested that dog litter bins be provided in public parks and that cctv cameras be located at bring banks.

In reply, the Acting Director of Service (Environment) stated that redevelopment works at O’Brien Park are presently being looked at. Dog fouling is the responsibility of the owners. He agreed with members regarding lack of bins outside public houses for cigarette butts and stated that he intends calling a meeting with Representatives from the Vintners Association to address this problem. He added that the present bins for cigarette butts located on the streets are not successful as the public use them for dumping rubbish and a possible alternative is presently being looked at. He asked members to submit their suggestions in relation to Spring Clean Week to him. He informed Cllr. Byrne that the noise problem late at night on the North Circular Road is presently being investigated. He agreed to examine the Bye-Laws in relation to the banning of chewing gum and report back to members on the matter. He agreed to follow up on weed removal and said he will ensure that all weeds are sprayed properly. He agreed to look at extending the opening hours for the recycling centre at Park Road Depot.

Cllr. Wallace asked that the process be initiated designating Glasgow Park as a Park and she also asked that it be cleaned and maintained.

## **10. LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2006 – 2008**

It was proposed by Cllr. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. Kiely and unanimously agreed to adopt Litter Management Plan 2006 – 2008.

## **3. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS, CULTURAL AND SPORTING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 07**

The Chairman’s Report, Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 was noted.

### Grants under the Arts Act

<b>Individual / Organisation</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Limerick Musical Society	500.00
The Kate O’Brien Weekend	500.00
Fresh Film Festival	1,000.00
Student Exhibition at LSAD	250.00
Limerick Tango	250.00
Limerick Jazz Society	1,000.00
Summer Music on the Shannon	1,000.00
Bare Space Theatre Company	400.00

Amalgamation Theatre Company	400.00
Open Drawing Awards Show at LSAD	300.00
St. Nessan's Community School Arts Festival	500.00
The Georgian House & Gardens	500.00
Feile Luimni	1,000.00
Limerick Festival of Church Music	800.00
The Torch Players	500.00
The Quarry Players	500.00
The White House Poets	500.00
Myra O'Reilly & Mike Holmes	300.00
Breda Lynch – Visual Artist	300.00
Alan Boardman – Visual Artist	300.00
Kevin Kiely – Singer	300.00
Martin Bennis – Writer	300.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€1,400.00</b>

### Notice of Motion

“That Limerick City Council in partnership with Limerick City Sports Partnership will investigate the possibility of a Sports Development Officer being provided to the city”.

Cllr. McLoughlin pointed out that twenty four Councils throughout the country have a Sports Development Officer and he asked that the provision of a Sports Development Officer in Limerick City be given priority.

Cllrs. Gilligan and Wallace denounced the statement made recently on the radio by Tom Shortt regarding the skateboard park and said he should retract same.

In reply to Cllr. Gilligan, the Director of Service (Community and Enterprise) stated that the buildings presently housing the Jim Kemmy Museum and the City Library are not owned by Limerick City Council and are being rented. The closing date for the receipt of tenders for the construction of the skateboard park is 15<sup>th</sup> March 07 and will be opened by 19<sup>th</sup> March. The physical work will then commence as quickly as possible after that. He confirmed that the Dockers Monument will be combined with the skateboard park and it is hoped to have them all completed by the end of May. Regarding the appointment of a Sports Development Officer, he stated that we already have the Limerick City Local Sports Partnership who work very closely with Limerick City Council to provide sporting amenities throughout the city. Sport development is not the sole responsibility of Limerick City Council and is a combined effort of many bodies throughout the city. He confirmed that the library in Moyross will be open by the end of April of this year and will be able to cater for exhibitions.

### **STANDING ORDERS**

Standing Orders were suspended for fifteen minutes on the proposition of Cllr. O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr. Kiely.

### **4. CORRESPONDENCE**

Submitted letter from Munster Branch Irish Rugby Football Union thanking Limerick City Council for their help over the last year particularly in making the homecoming after last year's Heineken Cup victory such an enjoyable and successful event and for their efforts to promote rugby in Limerick since then.

Submitted list of tenders opened in respect of the following :

Weed Spraying 2007

Construction of 6 no. houses and 1 no. bungalow at Moylish Road, Ballynanty, Limerick

Printing Contract 2007

## **5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Submitted Financial Statement for the month of January, 2007 which was adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Cronin.

In reply to Cllr. Ryan, the Head of Finance stated that the deficit in the revenue account is primarily related to activity in the capital account. The capital account has a bearing on the overall financial situation. He indicated that he does not anticipate a deterioration in the financial situation of Limerick City Council

In reply to Cllr. Gilligan, the City Manager stated that the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has refunded most of the costs involved in the case against Limerick City Council regarding the main drainage and the costs and legal fees are the only things remaining to be refunded by the Department.

Cllr. Ryan asked that it be recorded in the Minutes that he was ruled out of order by His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Leddin on financial matters.

## **6. RAISING OF A LOAN FROM THE HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY TO FUND THE DRAW DOWN OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING LOANS.**

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon and unanimously agreed to approve the raising of a loan in the amount of €6.7m from the Housing Finance Agency to fund the drawn down of Affordable Housing Loans.

## **7. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY**

Submitted the following Disposal of Property in accordance with Notices already circulated under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, which were adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon :

Disposal of Freehold (Ground Rent) under Section 26 of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No. 2) Act, 1978 as per attached Section 183 Notices.

## **8. PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS AT CONFERENCES**

It was unanimously agreed to approve participation by members at the following conferences :

Exploring Diversity Together History Conference on 'Flight of the Earls – An International Event'  
To be held in East Tyrone College, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone  
28<sup>th</sup> February – 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2007.

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €803.00

Conference Fee : €322.50

IPA Policy Seminars on the new National and EU Financial Frameworks 2007 – 2013  
National Development Plan  
To be held in Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

1st March, 2007

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €324.87

Conference Fee : €195.00

IPA Policy Seminars on the new National and EU Financial Frameworks 2007 – 2013  
'EU Structural Funds and Funding Programmes'

To be held in Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

20<sup>th</sup> March, 2007

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €324.87

Conference Fee : €195.00

Training Seminar for Councillors "Energy and the Development Plan , Sustainable, Renewable, Efficient"

To be held in Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2007

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €405.56

Conference Fee : €245.00

Conference 'Rural and Regional Development'

To be held in The Bay View Hotel and Leisure Centre, Killybegs, Co. Donegal

2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2007

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €300.40

Conference Fee : €260.00

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Kerry Environmental Conference 2007 'RADON A Silent Killer – DEATH on our Roads'

To be held in the Golf Hotel, Ballybunion, Co. Kerry

28<sup>th</sup> March – 1st April, 2007

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €712.42

Conference Fee : €250.00

Sherkin Island Marine Station 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Environmental Conference  
'Enforcement of Environmental Regulations'

To be held in The Carrigaline Court Hotel, Carrigaline, Co. Cork

29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2007

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €301.49

Conference Fee : €280.00

Local Authorities Members Association Annual Spring Seminar  
'Meeting the Challenge – Providing the Solutions'

To be held in The Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry

12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2007

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €460.11

Conference Fee : €250.00

**9. NOMINATE A MEMBER OF LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL AS DIRECTOR OF SHANNON FOYNES PORT COMPANY (CLLR. O'HANLON'S TERM OF APPOINTMENT IS DUE TO EXPIRE ON 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2007)**

It was proposed by Cllr. Cronin and seconded by Cllr. Kiely to nominate Cllr. O'Hanlon as a Director of Shannon Foynes Port Company.

It was proposed by Cllr. Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Walsh to nominate Cllr. Walsh as a Director of Shannon Foynes Port Company.

As all members were not in agreement a Roll Call Vote was held which resulted as follows :

FOR CLLR. O'HANLON

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Leddin, Cllr. M. Hourigan, Cllr. K. Leddin, Cllr. J. Cronin, Cllr. K. Kiely, Cllr. K. O'Hanlon, Cllr. G. Fahy, Cllr. D. Scully, Cllr. L. Wallace, Cllr. M. Byrne and Cllr. J. Long (11)

FOR CLLR. WALSH

Cllr. J. Ryan, Cllr. J. Gilligan, Cllr. K. Walsh and Cllr. G. McLoughlin (4)

As a result of the Roll Call Vote Cllr. O'Hanlon was nominated as Director of Shannon Foynes Port Company.

**12. DEVELOPING CO-OPERATIVE LINKS BETWEEN GALWAY AND LIMERICK CITIES**

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Leddin stated that a meeting would take place shortly with the Mayor and Manager of Galway City Council to examine the development of co-operative links between Galway and Limerick Cities.

**13. PLANNING PROPOSALS AND DECISIONS**

The Meeting noted the list of planning proposals under consideration at 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2007 and Decisions taken from 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2007 to 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2007.

Cllr. Gilligan referred to planning application 07/39 – construct 1500 mm diameter culvert and associated site works at Clonmacken, Condell Road, Limerick and asked for an explanation of same.

In reply, the Senior Planner stated that the proposed culvert will be under the Condell Road and is in respect of a housing development in Limerick County Council jurisdiction. It is outside the area designated as The Wetlands. Notification of this housing development was received from Limerick County Council and Limerick City Council did submit their views expressing reservations about this proposed development. The reservations concerned water pressure and the roundabout however, planning permission was still granted for this development. He added that the City Council had no discussions directly with the developer.

**STANDING ORDERS**

Standing Orders were suspended for five minutes of the proposition of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Leddin, seconded by Cllr. Cronin.

In reply to Cllrs. K. Leddin and Ryan regarding planning application 06/213 Demolition of Strandville, Roseville and Curragour House, ancillary sheds and structures and construction of 49 apartments and associated works at Clancy Strand, Limerick, the Senior Planner stated that new plans were received on foot of additional information requested by Limerick City Council. He added that the plans are significantly different from the initial plans and therefore the applicant has been asked to readvertise the application.

Cllr. K. Leddin pointed out that the residents in the area do not want seating in the riverside development.

Cllr. Ryan welcomed An Bord Pleanala's decision to refuse planning permission for the construction of a mast at St. Villiers School.

In reply to Cllr. Gilligan regarding planning application 07/23 Retention of existing development of a telecommunications monopole with antennas, transmission dishes and associated works at Galvone Industrial Estate, the Senior Planner stated that the City Council are obliged to put in the public record the description given by the applicant in the application and not amend it in any way.

#### **14. AN BORD PLEANALA**

The Meeting noted the Decisions taken by An Bord Pleanala from 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2007 to 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2007.

#### **STANDING ORDERS**

Standing Orders were suspended for five minutes on the proposition of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Leddin, seconded by Cllr. Cronin.

#### **15. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Submitted the following Notice of Motion, due notice of which was given, which was referred to the Economic Policy Development and Future Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting :

“That Limerick City Council commence the necessary Compulsory Purchase Order procedures to acquire the land currently owned by the CIE Group. These derelict lands are adjacent to the site formerly known as the Guinness Site on Carey's Road which is currently in the ownership of Limerick City Council. The acquisition of the CIE land will allow the City Council to prepare a proper overall draft redevelopment plan for the area in consultation with local residents and Councillors”.

Signed : Cllr. Joe Leddin

#### **16. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Submitted the following Notice of Motion, due notice of which was given, which was referred to Area Meeting :

“That Limerick City Council commence the process of extinguishing the right of way at Upper Carey's Road between the Orchard and Quarry area. This area is subject to constant anti social behaviour and the closure of this laneway is supported by the local Gardai”.

Signed : Cllr. Joe Leddin

#### **17. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Submitted the following Notice of Motion, due notice of which was given, which was referred to the Transportation and Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee Meeting :

“That Limerick City Council totally rejects the proposal for the provision of Designated Bus Routes on Ballinacurra Road / O'Connell Avenue because this would :

- (a) pose serious traffic safety problems;
- (b) would greatly interfere with residential parking and amenities on the Ballinacurra Road / O'Connell Avenue and adjacent streets;
- (c) would be totally out of character with the area;



(d) contemplates only a short stretch of road;

(e) is totally unnecessary/;

and withdraws forthwith any proposal for the provision of designated bus routes on the said stretch of road”.

Signed : Cllr. Pat Kennedy.

## **18. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Submitted the following Notice of Motion, due notice of which was given, which was referred to the Area Meeting :

“That Limerick City Council Roads Department widen the road at the Corbally side of Grove Island roundabout to enable two car lanes to access roundabout, to facilitate traffic accessing the new Corbally Link Road”.

Signed : Cllr. Kieran Walsh

## **19. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Submitted the following Notice of Motion, due notice of which was given, which was adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. Fahy :

(a) “That Limerick City Council enable City Hall to have wireless broadband access in order to provide better access for members of public who wish to avail of such service whilst accessing Council services”

(b) “That members be furnished with all documentation for all meetings by e mail as well as paper copy, as is, over an agreed phased basis. Training for all members to be provided in order to ensure a smooth transition from paper to electronic copy”.

Signed : Cllr. Jim Long

## **20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr. Gilligan asked that every effort be made to resolve the ongoing industrial dispute within the City Council.

Cllr. Wallace thanked the Parks Department for the tree planting in Glasgow Park. She expressed her thanks to Mr. Alan Wallace during his term as Acting Director of Service and wished him well in his upcoming retirement.

Cllr. McLoughlin also paid tribute to Mr. Wallace for his help and efficiency over the last number of months. He wished the best of luck to the Fair Trade Group.

## **THE MEETING THEN ADJOURNED**

## **A TRUE RECORD**

**T. MACKEY**  
**CITY MANAGER**

**CONFIRMED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2007.**

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**MAYOR OF LIMERICK**