

LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL

A Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Monday, 26th March, 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, J. Houlihan, L. Wallace, P. Kennedy, M. Byrne and
J. Long

STAFF : Mr. T. Mackey, City Manager
Mr. K. Lehane, Director of Service
Mr. P. Dromey, Director of Service
Ms. C. Curley, Director of Service
Mr. P. Dowling, Director of Service
Mr. J. Field, Head of Finance
Mr. R. Tobin, Senior Planner
Mr. J. Harte, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. J. Delaney, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. P. Foley, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. E. Creamer, Staff Officer

It was proposed by His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Leddin to suspend Standing Orders for thirty minutes to receive Presentation from Cllr. Aodhan O Riordain, Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin, on Right to Read Campaign and also to take Item No. 8.

This was seconded by Cllr. Ryan and agreed.

Cllr. O'Hanlon expressed concern that Party Leaders were not consulted at the Party Leaders Meeting in relation to the Presentation from the Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin and asked that such matters be discussed in future with all Party Leaders and Representative from the Independents. He suggested that, in future, presentations be held in advance of the Monthly City Council Meetings.

Cllr. Aodhán Ó Riordáin then gave Presentation on Right to Read Campaign.

Members thanked Cllr. Ó Riordáin for his presentation and welcomed the Campaign but pointed out that this is more relevant to the V.E.C. rather than the Local Authority. Limerick City Council also contributes to adult learning and the new library in Moyross will be a very important facility in the area. Members agreed that Homework Clubs are a very good idea.

Mr. Ó Riordáin then left the meeting.

8. PRESENTATION BY MR. ENDA THOMPSON, PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR, SHANNON RBD PROJECT ON THE SIGNIFICANT WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES RELATING TO THE PREPARATION OF A SHANNON RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Leddin welcomed Mr. Thompson to the Meeting and then invited him to make his Presentation.

Mr. Thompson then made his presentation.

Members thanked Mr. Thompson for his detailed presentation. Cllr. Long said that all water treatment plants should be upgraded to the standard of Limerick City's plant. Cllr. Ryan stressed the importance of significant investment by Limerick City Council in this area. Cllr. Hourigan queried the impact of septic tanks on the water supply. Cllr. Cronin referred to flooding in certain parts of Limerick and asked what action can be taken to address this problem.

In reply, Mr. Thompson said the overall objective of Water Framework Directive is to maintain high status of water where it exists, prevent any deterioration in existing status of waters and achieve at least good status of all waters by 2015. He acknowledged members comments in relation to sewerage discharge and added that this is a national problem. The issue of berthing is looked after by Waterways Ireland. Flooding in the city he advised is a separate matter.

The Director of Service (Transportation and Infrastructure) stated that Limerick City Council monitors the water supply on a regular basis and it's compliance level is well above the national average.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. J. Leddin welcomed Ms. Caroline Curley, Director of Service, back to Limerick City Council and wished her well in her new position as Director of Service.

1. MINUTES

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

“That the Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 26th February, 2007, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

2. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS, TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12TH MARCH, 2007.

The Chairman's Report, Transportation and Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 12th March, 2007, was noted.

Submitted the following Recommendation from the Transportation and Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 12th March, 2007 :

“To proceed with the provisions relating to utilising the (Road Traffic removal, storage and disposal of vehicles) to deal with unlawfully parked vehicles”.

Cllrs. Gilligan, Walsh, Cronin, Wallace and Long voiced their opposition to this recommendation warning that it could act as a deterrent to city centre shoppers.

Cllr. Hourigan indicated that he would be totally opposed to a private operator having the power to decide on towaway.

Cllrs. Ryan and O'Hanlon agreed that illegally parked cars are causing difficulties and implementing the above recommendation would address this but expressed similar concerns to the other councillors and requested a detailed statement from the Director of Service.

Cllr. Kiely indicated that he fully supported the recommendation.

In reply, the Director of Service (Transportation and Infrastructure) stated that cars would only be towed away in extreme cases and pointed out that every request to remove an illegally parked car would have to be approved by the Gardai or Limerick City Council first. He added that the City Council is inundated with requests from the Gardai to implement this recommendation.

It was proposed by Cllr. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. Kennedy and agreed to refer this item back to the Transportation and Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee Meeting for further debate and discussion and that all members of City Council be invited to attend the Meeting.

Submitted the following Recommendation from the Transportation and Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 12th March, 2007, which was adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Fahy :

“That a brainstorming session with stakeholders such as Iarnrod Eireann, Bus Eireann, Gardai and City Council members and staff is necessary outside of Strategic Policy Committee to discuss all aspects of transport in the city, covering the Orbital Route, Green Routes, etc.

Cllr. Hourigan asked that the bulbs on the Shannon Bridge be replaced.

In reply to Cllr. Wallace, the Director of Service (Transportation and Infrastructure) stated that Limerick City Council have one gully cleaning vehicle. In reply to Cllr. Wallace also, he stated that the present method of filling of potholes is acceptable.

In reply to Cllr. Hourigan, the Director of Service (Transportation and Infrastructure) stated that detailed plans are presently being prepared in relation to green routes.

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

Cllr. Ryan expressed concern at the visual image and condition of the Shannon Bridge and asked that consideration be given to an inexpensive proposal to improve the appearance of same.

In reply to Cllr. Gilligan, the Director of Service (Transportation and Infrastructure) stated that there is an ongoing issue across the country with the ESB in relation to public lighting but he was pursuing an improved service.

3. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS, ECONOMIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20TH MARCH, 2007.

The Chairman's Report, Economic Policy Development and Future Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 20th March, 2007 was noted.

Submitted the following Recommendation from the Economic Policy Development and Future Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 20th March, 2007 :

Notice of Motion

"That Limerick City Council commence the necessary Compulsory 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".

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Scully and unanimously agreed that these negotiations be allowed to proceed.

Submitted the following Recommendation from the Economic Policy Development and Future Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 20th March, 2007 :

"That the following Notice of Motion be referred back to Cllr. Byrne, as having considered the report of the Director of Service, it was more appropriate to the Transportation and Infrastructure Department:

Notice of Motion

"That Limerick City Council in the granting of planning applications make it conditional that the developer be responsible for the clearing and unblocking of any gullies within the area where the work is being carried out to help alleviate the hardship for people living in the area as a result of flooding".

The City Manager indicated that a Notice of Motion was not necessary to address this issue. He pointed out that the City Council had the powers under the Roads Act to deal with the matter and assured Cllr. Byrne that gullies will be cleared and unblocked where construction work is being carried out.

Cllr. Cronin asked that he be furnished with a list of all the listed buildings in the city.

Cllr. Hourigan expressed concern at a number of business premises in Liddy Street which are closed up and stated that the owners of same should be obliged to refurbish them as they are an eyesore in their present state.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Submitted list of tenders opened in respect of Contract to assist in the development of a second three year Homeless Strategy and Action Plan 2007 – 2009 for Limerick City.

Cllr. Ryan referred to the construction of a skateboard park at Steamboat Quay and requested that an urgent meeting be called with the Director of Service to discuss this matter.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

In reply to Cllr. Scully, the Head of Finance stated that the level of activity in the capital account is up this year compared to last year as the pace of expenditure is greater. He pointed out that overdraft interest is not allowable, however, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government are very co-operative in processing Limerick City Council's claims.

STANDING ORDERS

Standing Orders were suspended for thirty minutes on the proposition of Cllr. Hourigan, seconded by Cllr. Kiely.

6. 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. Ryan :

- (a) Disposal of lands consisting of an area comprising approximately 0.0123 hectares or thereabouts statute measure situate at Claughaun Court, Garryowen in the City of Limerick and shown edged red on Drawing No. AG/2014 to Raymond Ryan and Tracy O'Carroll.
- (b) Disposal of land consisting of a plot of ground 2.47 acres in area situate at O'Malley Park in the City of Limerick and outlined in red on Drawing No. MIS261 to The Commissioners of Public Works or its nominees.
- (c) Disposal of premises consisting of a plot of land 0.16 acres situate at Nos. 14, 18 and 22, Knockalisheen Road, Ballynanty in the City of Limerick and outlined in red on Drawing No. AG/2042 to The Irish Rugby Football Union or it's nominees.
- (d) Disposal of premises consisting of a plot of land 0.3218 hectares situate at King's Island in the City of Limerick and outlined in red on Drawing No. AG/2011 to St. Mary's AID Limited or it's nominees.
- (e) Disposal of premises consisting of a plot of land 0.4158 hectares situate at O'Malley Park, in the City of Limerick and outlined in red on Drawing No. AG/2060 to be leased to Southill Youth Centre or it's nominees.
- (f) 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.

7. PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS AT CONFERENCES

It was proposed by Cllr. O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr. Hourigan and unanimously agreed to approve participation by members at the following conferences :

Department of Government, UCC “On Message: Communicating the Political Campaign”
To be held in O’Rahilly Building, Room 255, UCC, Cork
29th March, 2007
Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €301.49
Conference Fee : €160.00

5th National Tourism Conference “Tourism : Fostering Local and Regional Regeneration”
To be held in Seven Oaks Hotel, Athy Road, Carlow
29th – 30th March, 2007
Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €379.42
Conference Fee : €190.00

Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly 8th Annual Conference “Regional Governance”
To be held in Killashee House Hotel, Naas, Co. Kildare
20th April, 2007
Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €405.40
Conference Fee : €175.00

Annual Joint Conference of the Library Association of Ireland and the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals Ireland “Inspiring Progress: good practice and new developments”
To be held in The Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise
24th – 26th April, 2007
Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €460.11
Conference Fee : €350.00

The National Sculpture Factory Conference on Architecture and Design in Domestic Housing
To be held in City Hall, Cork
24th – 25th May, 2007
Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €301.49
Conference Fee : €250.00

9. AMENDMENTS TO LIMERICK CITY APPOINTED STANDS (STREET SERVICE VEHICLES) BYE LAWS 2006

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Long and unanimously agreed to approve amendments to Limerick City Appointed Stands (Street Service Vehicles) Bye – Laws 2006.

10. REPORT ON THE ADDITION OF JACKSON’S TURRET TO THE RECORD OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES

It was proposed by Cllr. Hourigan, seconded by Cllr. Cronin and unanimously agreed to approve Report on the addition of Jackson’s Turret to the Record of Protected Structures.

11. REPORT ON PREPARATION OF CITY CENTRE STRATEGY

The Report on preparation of City Centre Strategy was noted.

12. DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR A RIVERSIDE BOARDWALK AT KING JOHN'S CASTLE

Proposals were circulated at the Meeting by Director of Service (Transportation and Infrastructure).

The Draft Proposals for a Riverside Boardwalk at King John's Castle were noted. A number of members welcomed the draft proposal but expressed their dissatisfaction with its visual appearance. Cllr. Kennedy asked that the Council seek the views of the Office of Public Works on the proposals.

13. PLANNING PROPOSALS AND DECISIONS

The Meeting noted the list of planning proposals under consideration at 16th March, 2007 and Decisions taken from 19th February, 2007 to 16th March, 2007.

In response to the members queries Mr. Tobin advised the following

- The proposed take away in Shelbourne Terrace would be considered on its merits but regard would be had to the number of similar developments in the area.
- There were a number of matters to be considered in relation the Redemptorist development including the density of the proposal
- The developer in O'Connell Street had been asked to cease works and submit a planning application
- That there had been a number of instances of developers building first and applying for retention
- That permission was required for landfill and the Council was seeking cooperation from developers in relation to proposals for Rhebogue
- That traffic management was an issue in relation to the development at Strand House Ennis Road
- Will advise the members when a total reply is received to the further information requested for Jackson's Turret.

14. AN BORD PLEANALA

The Meeting noted the Decisions taken by An Bord Pleanala from 19th February, 2007 to 16th March, 2007.

15. 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 would consider the installation of a Pelican Crossing with sensors at the Salesian Primary School, Lower Shelbourne Road”.

Signed : Cllr. Michael Hourigan

16. 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 would consider as a matter of urgency increasing the waterflow to the Westfield Wetlands”.

Signed : Cllr. Michael Hourigan

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The members were advised that Mr.Fitzgerald’s report on Housing would be going to a Cabinet Sub-Committee in the next few days.

THE MEETING THEN ADJOURNED

A TRUE RECORD

**T. MACKEY
CITY MANAGER**

CONFIRMED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2007.

MAYOR OF LIMERICK