

**LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL**

A Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2007 at 4.00 p.m.

The following were in attendance :

**IN THE CHAIR :** Cllr. G. Fahy, Mayor

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

**STAFF :** Mr. T. Mackey, City Manager  
Mr. K. Lehane, Director of Service  
Ms. C. Curley, Director of Service  
Mr. P. Dromey, Director of Service  
Mr. P. Dowling, Director of Service  
Mr. J. Field, Head of Finance  
Mr. R. Tobin, Senior Planner  
Mr. D. Healy, Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms. D. Crowe, Acting Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. M. Hayes, Administrative Officer  
Mr. S. O'Doherty, Staff Officer  
Ms. E. Creamer, Staff Officer

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Prior to the business proper of the Meeting, His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Fahy proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the following members of staff on their recent bereavements :

Margaret O'Connell on the death of her mother, Elizabeth  
Joan Hartigan on the death of her husband, Tony  
Pam Collins on the death of her mother, Mary.

He also extended best wishes to Cllr. John Ryan on his road to recovery.

The City Manager, on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff of the City Council, also wished to be associated with the above.

**1. MINUTES**

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

“That the Minutes of Annual Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2007, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

## **2. MINUTES**

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

“That the Minutes of Adjourned Annual Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2007, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

In reply to Cllr. Kiely, the City Manager stated that derelict sites will be dealt with shortly in conjunction with the City Centre Strategy.

## **3. MINUTES**

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

“That the Minutes of Special Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2007, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

## **4. RECOMMENDATION, SPECIAL MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL (IN PROTOCOL COMMITTEE) HELD ON 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2007**

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Cronin and unanimously agreed to approve the following Recommendation from Special Meeting of Limerick City Council (in Protocol Committee) held on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2007:-

“That the Corbally Link Road be officially named Pa Healy’s Road”.

## **5. MINUTES**

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

“That the Minutes of Special Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2007, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

## **6. REPORT, SOCIAL POLICY AND HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2007.**

The Chairman’s Report, Social Policy and Housing Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2007, was noted.

Cllr. Long expressed concern at overcrowding and social problems in the halting site at Bawney’s Bridge and at present emergency services could not gain entry to the site and asked that the site be examined.

Cllr. J. Leddin asked for a comprehensive assessment to be done on the burnt out houses in the city apart from those houses in the regeneration areas. He asked for an update regarding social and affordable housing under Part 5. He enquired if there are grants available from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for insulation of attics.

Cllr. Kiely referred to the number of meetings held between Housing Staff of the City Council and Senior Gardai re criminality and anti-social behaviour in various areas of the city, as a result of which 35 families were to be removed from City Council estates and asked for an update regarding these evictions.

Cllr. Byrne asked that when houses are knocked that they are properly boarded up so that the backs of other houses are not at risk and she referred specifically to Bourke Avenue.

In reply, the Director of Service (Social Policy and Housing) stated that the City Council is required to do a Housing Assessment Needs. The level of regeneration will relieve the housing waiting list and there are quite a range of initiatives underway at present also. He added that the City Council have demolished eighty burnt out houses to date and those remaining are earmarked for the Regeneration Scheme. He added that attic insulation and upgrade of windows can be done through the Remedial Works Scheme. Limerick City Council will continue to work very closely with the Gardai in dealing with anti social behaviour and added that Limerick City Council are one of the most active local authorities in dealing with this problem. He assured Cllr. Byrne that the backs of the houses in Bourke Avenue will be adequately secured.

In reply to Cllr. K. Leddin, the Director stated that Limerick City Council do not have a duty to house people who have been evicted by the Council. He indicated that Representatives from the Health Service Executive will be invited to attend the next Social Policy and Housing Strategic Policy Committee Meeting and all members will be invited to attend.

#### **7. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS, TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2007.**

The Chairman's Report, Transportation and Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2007 was noted.

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon and unanimously agreed to approve the following Recommendations from the Transportation and Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2007 :

- (a) That a Ward Meeting be arranged to discuss traffic issues due to developments at Punches Cross and also at the Redemptorists Church.
- (b) To extinguish the Public Right of Way at Island View Terrace, Corbally Road.
- (c) To defer the following Notices of Motion until the findings of the study on Green Routes is available : -
  - (i) "That Limerick City Council in considering proposals for bus lanes consider the provision of a park and ride facility on lands adjacent to the cement factory on the Dock Road and that a bus lane be operated along the Dock Road from this facility to the City Centre and that the existing service along O'Connell Avenue and Ballinacurra Road remain unchanged".  
Signed : Cllr. Maria Byrne

- (ii) “That Limerick City Council totally rejects the proposal for the provision of Designated Bus Routes on Ballinacurra Road / O’Connell Avenue because this would : -
- (i) Pose serious traffic safety problems:
  - (ii) Would greatly interfere with residential parking and amenities on the Ballinacurra Road/O’Connell Avenue and adjacent streets:
  - (iii) Would be totally out of character with the area:
  - (iv) Contemplates only a short stretch of road:
  - (v) Is totally unnecessary.
- Signed : Cllr. Pat Kennedy

Cllr. McLoughlin referred to the proposal to raise the wall at Sir Harry’s Mall and pointed out that the public lean over this wall to feed the birds and view the river. If the wall is raised this will no longer be possible.

In reply, the Director of Service (Transportation and Infrastructure) stated that the whole road is being upgraded and the raising of the wall would be for flood defence. He added that any proposed works have gone through the statutory proceedings and the public have been consulted in relation to proposed plans. However, he agreed to clarify the height of the proposed wall and revert back to Cllr. McLoughlin.

In reply to Cllr. Hourigan, the Director of Service stated that the Delivery Strategy is being dealt with in conjunction with the City Centre Strategy and it is hoped to have everything in place within the next year and a half. He agreed to look at traffic congestion on the Condell Road and report back. There is a programme in place for the cleaning of gullies with an outside contractor. Extensive work has been done on the gullies in the North Circular Road. He agreed to check the lights on Sarsfield Bridge.

Cllr. Gilligan pointed out that, in his opinion, the traffic lights between Honan’s Quay and the city centre park and the lights at the end of Lord Edward Street serve no purpose and suggested that they be removed.

In reply, the Director of Service stated that traffic lights are there for pedestrian safety as well as car safety.

Cllr. Long enquired why Quinn Street to St. Gerard Street has not been made a one way street yet and was informed by the Director that he would have the matter examined.

Cllr. K. Leddin referred to the City Centre / Riverside Projects and asked if the walk from the Hilton Hotel is included in these projects. She added that she would be totally opposed to seats here as they would attract anti social behaviour. The Director pointed out that consultations have taken place with a small number of residents in the area regarding the seats.

The Director assured Cllr. Wallace that the matter regarding the public lighting in Kennedy Park will be reviewed and resolved. He agreed to look at the exit from Kennedy Park out onto the Roxboro road. He indicated that he will address the matter of ramps in Keyes Park at a Ward Meeting.

Cllr. Kiely asked for an update regarding the proposed new road between Moyross and the Coonagh Roundabout and was informed by the Director of Service that the City Council is engaged at present with the procurement of consultants.

**8. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS, ECONOMIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2007**

The Chairman's Report, Economic Policy Development and Future Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2007 was noted.

Cllr. Byrne referred to the planning permission granted for Ballinacurra Gaels. The Head of Finance agreed to examine and report back.

She also expressed concern at the deplorable condition of Tait's Clock and asked that it receive attention immediately.

Cllr. Hourigan referred to the recent sale of six and a half acres on the North Circular Road by the Bishop and asked that a survey of the trees in the area be carried out to ensure that the tree line is maintained and a tree preservation order placed on the rarer species.

In reply, the Head of Finance agreed to consider this in conjunction with any proposed development for the area.

Cllr. O'Hanlon complimented all concerned on the restoration of St. Mary's Cathedral however asked that the fountain and the general area in front of the Cathedral be upgraded. He suggested that a specific plan be formulated for this area and that perhaps a memorial for the visit of Pope John Paul to Limerick could form part of the overall upgrade.

The Head of Finance agreed to look at this upgrading under the City Centre Strategy.

The City Manager stated that the granting of a boundary extension to the north side of the city arises out of the Fitzgerald Report and is a separate issue from the overall application for a boundary extension for the city.

In reply to Cllr. Kennedy, the Head of Finance stated that the review of the Development Plan is due to commence in 2008.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

Submitted letter from Thomas Ryan thanking His Worship the Mayor and Elected Members, the City Manager and staff for the Conferring of the Freedom of the City on him and indicating that it was a major event in his life. He said it was great satisfaction for him in that the event recognised his work as an artist but more particularly, as a Limerick Artist. He also complimented the illuminator, calligrapher, silversmith and the maker of the wooden base.

Submitted letter from the Mid West Regional Authority stating that at a Special Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2007, the following Resolution was unanimously adopted :

“To ask the Oireachtas Members of all Parties and Local Authorities in the West of Ireland and various representative bodies to come together to decide on a joint strategy for the annulment of this decision”.

Submitted letter from the Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach acknowledging receipt of Limerick City Council’s letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2007 regarding the decision by Aer Lingus to discontinue the Shannon/Heathrow Service and pointing out the contents of the letter has been noted. It also stated that the letter has been forwarded to Mr. Noel Dempsey, Minister for Transport and the Marine for his attention and consideration and that Minister Dempsey is to respond directly to Limerick City Council.

Submitted letter from the Private Secretary to the Secretary General to the Government acknowledging receipt of Limerick City Council’s letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> September regarding the resolution on the Shannon-Heathrow service.

Submitted letter from the Minister for Transport dated 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2007 regarding the withdrawal by Aer Lingus of its Shannon to London Heathrow air service.

Cllr. J. Leddin expressed his disappointment at the contents of the Minister for Transport’s letter and proposed that he be replied to expressing Limerick City Council’s disappointment at such contents.

Cllr. O’Hanlon seconded this proposal.

Submitted list of tenders opened in respect of the following :

Dock Road Surface Improvement Overlay

Pedestrian Crossing on Condell Road – Civil Works

Painting of Sylvester O’Halloran Bridge

Pavement Overlay Schemes on National and Regional Road Networks: Procurement of Consultant Engineering Services for the N18 Condell Road, Limerick City

Park Canal Restoration Public Lighting

Remodelling of Streets and Public Spaces – Improvement Works at Upper Thomas Street, Catherine Street and Foxes Bow

Limerick City Riverside Strategy – Remodelling and Improvement Works at O’Callaghan Strand

Pre Qualification Questionnaire for Multi-Disciplinary Professional Services for the Delivery of the Limerick Public Realm Strategy.

It was proposed by His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Fahy and unanimously agreed to accord a Civic Reception on Monday, 1st October, 2007 to Garryowen Football Club to mark their victory in the AIB All Ireland League, the AIB All Ireland Cup, the Munster Senior Cup and the Munster Junior Cup in the 2006/2007 Season and a Civic Reception on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2007 to Shannon and St. Michael’s Rowing Clubs on winning the Senior Eights National Rowing Championships of Ireland.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Fahy referred to correspondence he received from the Harris Family thanking Limerick City Council for the erection of the statue in Bedford Row in commemoration of Richard Harris and indicated that he would circulate a copy of same to members.

## **10. FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Submitted Financial Statement for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2007, which was adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. J. Leddin, seconded by Cllr. Kiely.

### **10 (a) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AUDIT COMMITTEE**

It was agreed to defer the City Manager's Report regarding the establishment of an Audit Committee to the October City Council Meeting.

## **11. DRAFT LANGUAGE SCHEME**

It was proposed by Cllr. Hourigan, seconded by Cllr. J. Leddin and unanimously agreed to approve Draft Language Scheme in accordance with the Official Languages Act, 2003.

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

It was proposed by Cllr. Hourigan, seconded by Cllr. J. Leddin and unanimously agreed to approve participation by members at the following Conferences :

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Co. Council Active Citizenship Conference "A Lifestyle for all our futures"

To be held in The Radisson SAS St. Helen's Hotel, Stillorgan Road, Dublin

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

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €465.14

Conference Fee : €395.00

Douglas Hyde Conference 2007 "Life and interests and legacy of Ireland's First President"

To be held in St. Nathy's College, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon

26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2007

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €569.21

Conference Fee : €190.00

Local Authority Members Association Annual Winter Conference "Who is financing Local Government's future ? – L.G. Integrated or Segregated ? – A Senator's perspective on the proposed Green Paper on L.G. Reform"

To be held in The Dolmen Hotel, Carlow

9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2007

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €379.42

Conference Fee : €185.00

Clare Tourist Council/Clare County Council National Tourism Conference "Tourism for Changing Lifestyles"

To be held in The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare

22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2007

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €382.18

Conference Fee : €240.00

### **13. DIRECTOR OF SERVICE REPORT REGARDING IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO THE RIVERSIDE IN THE CITY CENTRE AREA**

The Director of Service Report regarding improvement works to the riverside in the City Centre Area was noted.

### **14. PLANNING PROPOSALS AND DECISIONS**

The Meeting noted the list of planning proposals under consideration at 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2007 and Decisions taken from 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2007 to 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2007.

Cllr. J. Leddin stated that he is totally opposed to the planning application for 400 apartments by Redemptorists Fathers in it's current format. Such development would have a major impact in the area, in particular in relation to traffic. Severe traffic congestion is presently being experienced in the area.

Cllr. Kennedy appreciated that the Redemptorists Fathers have made a major contribution to many aspects of life in Limerick city and Limerick City Council should do it's best to facilitate them however, the development proposed by them should be suitable and appropriate to the area and, in his opinion, the application presently submitted is totally unsuitable for the area.

Cllr. Byrne also voiced her objection to this proposed development.

The Senior Planner agreed with members that this development would create very significant traffic problems in the area. He indicated that he will be requesting additional details in relation to traffic and scale of the development and assured members that no hasty decision will be made in respect of this application.

Cllr. O'Hanlon referred to the houses at 1 – 8 Pike Avenue, Garryowen which were demolished a number of years ago and expressed disappointment that they have not been rebuilt yet. The site is presently being used as a dumping ground and appealed to have the houses rebuilt as soon as possible.

Cllr. O'Hanlon asked that the Ward Councillors and Residents in the area be consulted in relation to planning application 07/315.

In reply to Cllr. Cronin, the Senior Planner stated that he will issue a Warning Letter to Fine Wines regarding the erection of a mast in Thomondgate.

In reply to Cllr. K. Leddin, the Senior Planner stated that additional details were requested in respect of planning application 07/205 development at St. Lelias Credit Union, Killeely and to date same have not been submitted.

In reply to Cllr. Wallace, the Senior Planner indicated that the planning application for Fort Villas, Roxboro Road was part granted and part refused. However, the developer can come back with subsequent planning application.

### **15. AN BORD PLEANALA**

The Meeting noted the Decisions taken by an Bord Pleanala from 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2007 to 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2007.

#### **16. REPORT FROM CITY MANAGER DATED 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2007**

Submitted Report from City Manager dated 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2007, which was adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. Byrne :

“Construction of new entrance to the Peoples Park and associated works at The Peoples Park at the junction of Upper Mallow Street and Boherbuoy, Limerick”. (C07/4)

#### **17. 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 finish outstanding works within private housing estates that have not been completed by developers as part of their planning permission and fund such works through the bonds held by the City Council when planning permission was originally granted”.

Signed : Cllr. Joe Leddin

#### **18. 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 make the necessary provisions to prohibit completely the parking of any wheeled vehicle or trailer\* etc. on any green area in its charge.

\*including bicycles, mechanically propelled vehicles, trailers, “sulkies” or any item mounted on an axle and tow or more wheels, or any other item so specified by the Council”.

Signed : Cllr. Michael Hourigan

Cllr. Kevin Kiely

Cllr. John Cronin

#### **19. 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 the residents of the city business district should be allowed park on designated streets rather than on the one they are resident. The designated streets should be those within the City”.

Signed : Cllr. Michael Hourigan

#### **20. NOTICE OF MOTION**

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

“That Limerick City Council as a matter of extreme urgency :

- (a) totally reinstates and resurfaces the South Circular Road from its junction with the Ballinacurra Road to the Redemptorist Church;
- (b) upgrades and makes clearly visible the speed ramps on the said stretch of road;
- (c) designates/allocates the appropriate level of funding for this work;
- (d) makes a special case for funding from the Department of the Environment and Local Government”.

Signed : Cllr. Pat Kennedy

## **21. 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 as a matter of extreme urgency formulate an Action Area Plan for the improvement and enhancement of the central and specially important area of Limerick City, comprising the Carey’s Road/Hyde Road/Bourke Avenue/Lord Edward Street general area, with the fullest consultation with the local residents and other local interests”.

Signed : Cllr. Pat Kennedy

## **22. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no further business.

## **THE MEETING THEN ADJOURNED**

### **A TRUE RECORD**

**T. MACKEY  
CITY MANAGER**

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

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**MAYOR OF LIMERICK**

