

ITEM NO. 1

LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL

A Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall on Monday, 22nd October, 2007 at 4.00 p.m.

The following were in attendance :

IN THE CHAIR : Cllr. G. Fahy, Mayor

COUNCILLORS : M. Hourigan, J. Cronin, K. Kiely, K. O'Hanlon, K. Walsh, G. McLoughlin, D. Scully, 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. K. Reeves, Senior Executive Planner
Ms. N. O'Connell, Executive Planner
Ms. L. Sheahan, Temporary Planning Student
Ms. D. Crowe, Acting Senior Executive Officer
Ms. M. Hayes, Administrative Officer
Ms. E. Creamer, Staff Officer
Ms. E. Buckley, Assistant Staff Officer

Prior to the business proper of the meeting, His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Fahy proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to Geraldine Murnane on the sudden death of her husband, John, who was also a valued member of staff in the City Council.

He also proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to Deirdre Crowe on the death of her mother, Mary.

All members wished to be associated with the votes of sympathy.

The City Manager, on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff of Limerick City Council, also joined with the previous speakers in the votes of sympathy.

1. MINUTES

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

“That the Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 24th September, 2007, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

In reply to Cllr. J. Leddin, the Director of Service (Social Policy and Housing) stated that most of the boarded up houses are in areas which will be subject to regeneration. The first meeting of the Regeneration Committee will be held on Wednesday 24th October, 2007 and all members will be invited to attend. It is not clear at present who will be funding the demolition of existing houses, however, all these matters will be addressed.

Cllr. J. Leddin said a special case should be made to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to fund the refurbishment of boarded up houses. If such houses are not in the ownership of Limerick City Council then they should be acquired through Compulsory Purchase Order. He also suggested that persons living in the Regeneration areas should be written to outlining proposals for their area under the Regeneration Scheme.

In reply to Cllr. Kiely, the Director stated that Exclusion Orders were discussed at the recent Joint Policing Committee Meeting and there are ongoing discussions with relevant Gardai to progress further cases.

The Head of Finance informed Cllr. J. Leddin that An Information Seminar on the City Centre Strategy was held two weeks ago at which reference was made to derelict sites, however, if members want a specific seminar on derelict sites, it can be organised.

In reply to Cllr. Long, the Senior Planner stated that the City Council spent one year considering the planning application for the Redemptorist Church and the decision on same was not a hasty one. More than likely this planning permission will be appealed to An Bord Pleanala and the Bord will then consider all traffic matters relating to the application.

Cllr. O’Hanlon asked that a correction be made to the minutes. He congratulated all on the restoration of St. John’s Cathedral, not St. Mary’s Cathedral and asked that the minute be amended accordingly.

In reply to Cllr. O’Byrne, the Senior Planner agreed to examine Tait’s Clock and report back directly to the Councillor on the matter.

Cllr. J. Leddin asked that members be circulated with a copy of the letter sent to Minister Noel Dempsey expressing members disappointment at the contents of his letter dated 17th September, 2007 regarding the withdrawal by Aer Lingus of it’s Shannon to London Heathrow Air Service.

Members congratulated His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Fahy on the rally organised last Saturday in the city in relation to the withdrawal of Aer Lingus of it’s Shannon to London Heathrow Air Service.

2. MINUTES

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

“That the Minutes of Special Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 1st October, 2007, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

3. MINUTES

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

“That the Minutes of Special Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 8th October, 2007, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

4. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION, ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1ST OCTOBER, 2007

The Chairman’s Report, Environmental Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 1st October, 2007 was noted.

It was proposed by Cllr. McLoughlin, seconded by Cllr. Kiely and unanimously agreed to approve the following Recommendation from the Environmental Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 1st October, 2007 :

“To approve Report on the Environmental Improvement Initiatives Grant Scheme 2007”.

Cllr. O’Hanlon stated that, in his opinion, the Chairman’s Report does not give a full reflection of what went on at the Meeting and indicated that he has issues with the manner in which this Strategic Policy Committee is being chaired.

In reply to Cllr. Kiely, the Director of Service (Environment) stated that drainage works are proceeding in Shelbourne Park and pointed out that there will be a 12 – 18 month growing period when the Park cannot be used.

Cllr. Byrne asked that falling leaves be gathered and swept up on a daily basis. Pot holes and gullies are covered with the leaves and this has resulted in people falling into same as they are not visible.

The Director stated that leaves are gathered on a daily basis however, if there are specific areas that Cllr. Byrne is referring to, then she should inform the Director and that area can be targeted for extra attention.

Cllr. Cronin expressed concern at the Wild Geese Monument which is falling into disrepair and asked that it be repaired.

Cllr. Cronin asked that litter bins be provided in High Road between Peppers Corner and Thomond Park. He complimented the Parks Department on the work they carried out on the bridges over the last few months.

Cllr. Kennedy asked that the Register of Tree Preservation Orders be located and made available for inspection.

In reply to Cllr. Houlihan, the Director of Service (Environment) stated that she will investigate the up to date position regarding the removal of railings surrounding Arthur's Quay Park.

Cllr. Houlihan expressed concern at dumping taking place at ESB Sub Stations and asked whose responsibility it is to remove such refuse.

In reply, the Director stated that it is usually the responsibility of the landowner however, she agreed to check the matter out and report back to Cllr. Houlihan.

Cllr. Houlihan pointed out that refuse is collected very early in the morning in some areas of the city and people can not let their bins out the night before because they will be burned and he asked if there are any bye laws governing collection times.

The Director stated that permits do not specify collection times, however, she agreed to check the matter out.

5. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS, CULTURAL AND SPORTING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8TH OCTOBER, 2007

The Chairman's Report, Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 8th October, 2007 was noted.

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Byrne and unanimously agreed to approve the following Recommendations from the Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 8th October, 2007

Individual / Organisation	Amount
The Cecilians	500.00
Limerick District Photographic Society	500.00
Children's Book Festival	600.00
Limerick Choral Union	500.00
Sionna Festival of Music and Dance	500.00
Pat Doran (book on Clune Lane Fishermen)	500.00
Stephen Ryan	500.00
TOTAL	€3,600.00

“That Limerick City Council would give serious consideration to supporting the proposals presented by the Sports Council to the Cultural and Sporting SPC in the provision of matching funding to total €80,000 –

1. Active Communities (Garryowen & Southill) - €15k
2. Sports Inclusion (disability sport programme support) - €15k
3. Community Youth Sport Officer (disadvantaged youth programme support) - €15k
4. City Council Grants for Sports Clubs and Groups - €35,000

This recommendation is made subject to funding being available in 2008”.

Cllr. J. Leddin asked that members be circulated with a copy of the presentation made on Sport in Limerick and also presentation by Brendan Kenny. He enquired if these presentations were site specific and if Caledonian Park was mentioned. He enquired if Limerick City Council is discussing it's plans for the areas with Regeneration Companies and Sporting Authorities.

The Director of Service (Community and Enterprise) assured Cllr. J. Leddin that discussions have taken place with the Regeneration Companies and will continue to do so. There are ongoing issues in relation to Caledonian Park, however, discussions will continue in relation to same. Caledonian Park is also included in the City Centre Strategy.

Cllr. J. Leddin paid tribute to the new state of the art library in Moyross and enquired if there are any plans for a new library in the city centre.

The Director indicated that an alternative location for the City Centre Library has been looked at but no suitable location identified yet.

Cllr. O’Hanlon expressed concern at stolen cars and caravans being burnt out or dumped in the three football pitches in Garryowen. If staff are not available to remove these then a private company should be hired. Mounds of earth should be placed around these pitches and a footpath provided outside the mounds. He asked that the Director would meet with the Ward Councillors and Committee Members to discuss these vandalism problems and identify solutions to deal with the matter.

Cllr. Long pointed out that Weston Villa Football Club made an application for a lease to Limerick City Council but were refused as the area is scheduled for redevelopment hence they are not in a position to apply for grants. He asked that consideration be given to finding an alternative location for them.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Fahy stated that due to a Meeting of the Joint Policing Forum on Monday 15th October, 2007 the Area Meetings did not take place. He proposed that Area 1 and 2 Meeting take place at 3.00 p.m. on Monday, 5th November, 2007 and Area 3 and 4 Meeting take place at 3.00 p.m. on Monday, 12th November, 2007.

This was unanimously agreed.

Submitted invitation from the Royal British Legion to attend the Annual Remembrance Ceremony at The War Memorial, Pery Square at 10.15 a.m. on Sunday, 11th November, 2007 and the Remembrance Service at St. Mary’s Cathedral at 11.00 a.m. on Sunday, 4th November, 2007.

It was unanimously agreed to accept this invitation and to robe for the occasion.

Submitted list of Tenders opened in respect of the following :

Residential Ionisation and Optical Smoke Alarm Devices
Truck Main Installation – Dock Road Caherdavin
New Footpath and Retaining Wall at Upper Carey’s Road, Limerick.

7. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

8. PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS AT CONFERENCES

It was proposed by Cllr. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. Kiely and unanimously agreed to approve participation by members at the following conferences :

EU Town Twinning Conference “Youth in Europe through Town Planning”
To be held in St. Patrick’s Centre, Market Street, Downpatrick, Co. Down
25th – 27th October, 2007.
Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €849.75
Conference Fee : £139.00 Sterling

Major Economic developed focused Conference “Gateway Status – What’s it worth”
To be held in Ballymascanlon House Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth
1st November, 2007
Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €592.42
Conference Fee : €175.00

The Ceifin Centre for Values-led Change 10th Anniversary Ceifin Conference
“Tracking The Tiger – A Decade of Change”
To be held in The West County Hotel and Conference Centre, Ennis, Co. Clare
6th – 7th November, 2007
Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €200.19
Conference Fee : €320.00

Comhar SDC National Conference “Making it Happen – Towards a Sustainable Ireland”
To be held in The Radisson SAS, St. Helen’s Hotel, Stillorgan Road, Dublin
7th – 8th November, 2007
Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €465.14
Conference Fee : €300.00

Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network Seminar
“An inclusive approach to the integration of new communities”
To be held in The Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
8th November, 2007
Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €324.87
Conference Fee : €75.00

Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) Meeting

To be held in Dobbs Room, Carrickfergus Town Hall, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim

15th – 16th November, 2007

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €753.47

Conference Fee : No Fee

National Association of Councillors Annual Conference

“Power to the People – Working with Local Communities”

To be held in The Ramada Hotel, Belfast

16th – 18th November, 2007

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €867.94

Conference Fee : £345.00 Sterling plus VAT

Drogheda Cross Border Focus – A Future for Co-Operation : A political discussion programme for Cross Border and Cross Community Participants”

To be held in The City North Hotel, Gormanston, Drogheda, Co. Louth

24th – 25th November, 2007

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €537.87

Conference Fee : €140.00

Confederation of European Councillors “Tackling Poverty and Social Need in Ireland, North and South”

To be held in The Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh

7th December, 2007

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €587.23

Conference Fee : €190.00

9. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AUDIT COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Walsh and unanimously agreed to approve City Manager’s Report regarding the establishment of an Audit Committee (deferred at Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 24th September, 2007).

It was unanimously agreed that the Party Leaders nominate the Retired Councillor.

10. TRANSFER OF CLLR. LONG FROM ECONOMIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE PLANNING SPC TO CULTURAL AND SPORTING SPC AND TRANSFER OF CLLR. SCULLY FROM CULTURAL AND SPORTING SPC TO ECONOMIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE PLANNING SPC

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Byrne and unanimously agreed to approve the transfer of Cllr. Jim Long from membership of the Economic Policy Development and Future Planning Strategic Policy Committee to the Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee and the transfer of Cllr. Diarmuid Scully from the Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee to the Economic Policy Development and Future Planning Strategic Policy Committee.

11. DRAFT CITY CENTRE STRATEGY

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Kennedy and unanimously agreed to approve the publishing for consultation of the Draft City Centre Strategy.

The City Manager thanked all the staff involved in the production of the Draft City Centre Strategy which shows tremendous vision. He added that members of the public and the Elected Representatives were consulted widely on the Plan.

All members paid tribute to the City Manager and staff for the production of the Draft City Centre Strategy which is very clear and concise and is a blueprint for future developments in the city.

Cllr. Long asked that the three primary schools in the Mulgrave Street area be taken into consideration when introducing the orbital route in this area as it will generate extra traffic.

Cllr. Scully asked that two derelict properties in Lelia Street be looked at as part of the City Centre Strategy.

Cllr. Hourigan said preservation standards for the Georgian quarter of the city should be incorporated in the City Development Plan.

Cllr. Byrne expressed concern at some of the shop fronts in the Georgian area of the city which are not in keeping with the area.

Cllr. O'Hanlon pointed out that there is a need for CCTV cameras in the Park Canal corridor. He asked that the apartment block at the corner of Lelia Street and Clare Street be demolished.

Cllr. Cronin pointed out that cycle lanes can be very dangerous and asked that they be examined again. In his opinion, no more retailing should be allowed in the outskirts of the city.

Cllr. Kiely welcomed the proposed redevelopment of the Arthurs Quay area and said he would welcome the inclusion of the Park in this proposal.

The Head of Finance thanked members for their kind words and paid tribute also to the staff of the Planning and Development Department for their efforts in the compilation of the Draft City Centre Strategy. He informed members that the removal of traffic at night in the nightclub quarter is being looked at. He agreed to take on board members comments in relation to the Georgian area of the city and also agreed to look at cycle lanes in the city. It is not in the control of Limerick City Council to stop retailing development in the outskirts of the city as it is not in it's jurisdiction.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Fahy reiterated what the previous speakers said and welcomed their views. He appealed to all stakeholders and the public to make their views known in relation to this very important document.

12. PLANNING PROPOSALS AND DECISIONS

The Meeting noted the list of planning proposals under consideration at 13th October, 2007 and Decisions taken from 17th September, 2007 to 13th October, 2007.

Cllr. J. Leddin stated that a number of residents have expressed concern in relation to 07/383 change of use of existing pub area to use as a pizzeria at Ashdown Centre, Ashbourne Avenue, South Circular Road, as this is a residential area.

In reply, the Senior Planner stated that this proposed development is for a take away pizzeria attached to a pub. He agreed that it could cause a problem as it is in a residential area, however, he added that he would examine the application very carefully.

Cllr. J. Leddin expressed concern that planning permission was granted in respect of development of 280 apartments by Redemptorists Fathers and asked for a copy of the proposed master traffic report. He also asked if a master plan has been drawn up for the whole area.

Cllr. Kennedy pointed out that if refused by Limerick City Council this application would probably have been appealed to An Bord Pleanala. In his opinion, the Planning and Development Department acted with diligence in this matter. However, he was disappointed that the applicants and developer did not accept the original planning permission.

Cllr. Long also voiced his opposition to the granting of planning permission to the Redemptorists Fathers and due to the traffic problems which will arise as a result of this development, he will be supporting the residents when they lodge an objection with An Bord Pleanala.

In reply, the Senior Planner stated that if Limerick City Council refused planning permission for the apartment development by the Redemptorists Fathers, they would appeal to An Bord Pleanala and they would probably grant planning permission without being aware of the concerns of the general public. By granting planning permission concerns were highlighted and several requirements were imposed for the management of the proposed complex. He pointed out that reports in relation to this proposed development may be viewed in the Planning and Development Department.

In reply to Cllr. Cronin, the Senior Planner indicated that the development at the rear of the Woodworkers Store in Sexton Street North involves the demolition of a house and erection of a small housing development which will exit onto Sexton Street North. A planning application has been submitted for this development and plans are available for inspection.

Cllr. Kiely asked that the Senior Planner meet with the Ward Councillors before a decision is made on this application.

Cllr. Cronin expressed concern regarding the erection of a mast by Fine Wines in Thomondgate and was informed by the Senior Planner that the City Council's concerns regarding the mast have been relayed to Fine Wines and further action will be taken if compliance is not forthcoming.

In reply to Cllr. Byrne, the Director of Service (Transportation and Infrastructure) stated that a report is presently being prepared on green routes in the city and will be circulated to members shortly.

13. AN BORD PLEANALA

The Meeting noted the Decisions taken by An Bord Pleanala from 17th September, 2007 to 13th October, 2007.

14. REPORT FROM CITY MANAGER DATED 16TH OCTOBER, 2007

Submitted Report from Director of Service dated 16th October, 2007, which was adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Walsh :

“Construction of 8 no. affordable three bedroom two storey houses together with ancillary site and development works at 1 – 8 Pike Avenue, Garryowen, Limerick”. (C07/3)

15. REPORT FROM CITY MANAGER DATED 17TH OCTOBER, 2007

Submitted Report from Director of Service dated 17th October, 2007 which was adopted on the proposition of Cllr. McLoughlin, seconded by Cllr. Kiely :

“Construction of a 700 square skateboard park with fencing and ancillary works at Mount Kennett, Dock Road, Limerick”. (C07/5)

Cllr. Kennedy agreed this is a very important and desirable amenity, however, there are many issues raised here and submissions and observations submitted. This proposed development would have a lot of implications for the area, e.g. traffic, possible anti-social behaviour, concerns of the business community in the area, health and safety and noise issues. He suggested a site inspection prior to a decision being made and then the matter brought back to the November City Council Meeting.

All members welcomed and supported this proposed development and added that this proposal should proceed as soon as possible as it has been dragging on a long time.

Cllr. O’Hanlon pointed out that when looking at funding for the skateboard park all sporting organisations should be treated in an equal manner.

Cllr. Long asked that the Dockers Monument be erected in conjunction with the proposed skateboard park.

Cllr. Hourigan expressed disappointment at the allocation received from the Department for the provision of a skateboard park which will leave a shortfall and he expressed hope that other recreational facilities will not suffer as a result.

Cllr. Scully stressed the importance of this much needed youth facility and he paid tribute to Cllr. Ryan who done everything to progress this proposal.

Cllr. Byrne asked that litter bins be provided in the skateboard park.

The Director of Service (Community and Enterprise) stated that the tendering process for the skateboard park will commence before Christmas. It will take two months to build so should be up and running late spring or early summer of next year. He pointed out that he is having discussions at present with the Arts Officer regarding the erection of the Dockers Monument which should be erected in tandem with the skateboard park.

16. 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, arising from the sale of six and a half acres of the Bishop’s Palace, North Circular Road, would carry out a survey of the trees to ensure that the tree line is maintained and a tree preservation order placed on the rarer species”.

Signed : Cllr. Michael Hourigan

17. 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 will take action for the removal of the reeds in the wild life sanctuary in Westfields and that the inflow and outflow of water be rectified”.

Signed : Cllr. Michael Hourigan

18. NOTICE OF MOTION

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

“In view of the improvements being carried out on O’Callaghan Strand

- (i) attention would be given by Limerick City Council to the cleaning and maintaining of the area under Shannon Bridge.
- (ii) That the walk known as Cleeves Bank would be seriously considered for upgrading, would be made safe for pedestrians and cyclists by clearing the brambles and cutting back some of the trees which are overgrown. This would give a better view to the River Shannon.
- (iii) That decking or landing stage areas would be installed or created as a matter of safety for oarsmen and all who sail on the Shannon River and for the enjoyment of people who study the flora and fauna of the estuary or those people who on their daily walk would need to relax or rest.

Finally, as the River Shannon is one of Limerick’s biggest attractions, in conjunction with Limerick County Council, funding would be sought extending and making safe the river bank walk as far as the tunnel”.

Signed : Cllr. Kathleen Leddin

19. 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, formulates a comprehensive plan for

- (a) the upgrading, improvement and enhancement of the Baggot Estate;
 - (b) the elimination of anti-social behaviour and other unlawful activities such as drinking in public open spaces in the said estate contrary to the relevant Bye-Laws of Limerick City Council;
 - (c) the preservation of trees and the making / enforcement of tree preservation orders;
 - (d) the elimination of litter on the said estate;
 - (e) that it designates/allocates the appropriate level of funding for this work;
- and that it furnishes a full report on these and other relevant matters”.

Signed : Cllr. Pat Kennedy

20. 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 :

- (a) formulates an updated and effective plan to promote and encourage the conservation, retention and preservation of areas, structures and precincts of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest, situated with the Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) ;
- (b) makes application to the Minister for the Environment under Section 80 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 for an appropriate level of grant aid to defray expenses and to assist persons carrying out works to protected structures”.

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 Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee Meeting :

“That Limerick City Council will work with Limerick Youth Services, Paul Partnership, the Southside Regeneration Agency and any other relevant interested body, to provide a Community/Youth Centre in Garryowen to service the Garryowen, Singland and Rhebogue Areas”.

Signed : Cllr. Diarmuid Scully

Cllr. Kieran Walsh

22. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. J. Leddin referred to the ‘For Sale’ sign erected on the site in Mary Street which had been earmarked to the Housing Association for a centre for troubled teenagers and which had received full planning permission. He asked if there had been a change in housing strategy and expressed concern that the Elected Members were not consulted in relation to this matter. He indicated that

he would not support the sale of this site without being consulted and asked that the 'For Sale' sign be removed.

Cllrs. McLoughlin, Walsh, Byrne and O'Hanlon supported Cllr. J. Leddin.

In reply, the Director of Service (Social Policy and Housing) stated that Limerick City Council are very committed to the homeless and the needy in the city. However, the model of care has changed. The model now required is to provide permanent units on a smaller scale in the community. The needs of the public have changed. He assured members that this matter will be listed for discussion at the next Social Policy and Housing Strategic Policy Committee Meeting.

The City Manager added that this site in Mary Street is a very important site and there should be a full and frank discussion at the next SPC Meeting. He added that there is a lot of expertise amongst the staff of the City Council who have highlighted the change in people's needs and thinking over the last number of years.

STANDING ORDERS

Standing Orders were suspended for five minutes on the proposition of Cllr. J. Leddin, seconded by Cllr. McLoughlin.

Cllr. McLoughlin pointed out that people in St. Mary's Park are very distressed about the proposed Regeneration Scheme and he asked that they be informed and kept up to date on all aspects of the Scheme.

The City Manager agreed that full consultation is needed in the area and the full views of the Elected Members will have to be obtained. He assured Cllr. McLoughlin that the residents in the area will be consulted and things will move along at a manageable pace.

THE MEETING THEN ADJOURNED

A TRUE RECORD

T. MACKEY
CITY MANAGER

CONFIRMED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2007

MAYOR OF LIMERICK

