

Item No. 1

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| LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL |
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A Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Monday, 17th December, 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. Ryan, J. Gilligan, K. O’Hanlon, K. Walsh, G. McLoughlin, D. Scully, J. Houlihan, L. Wallace, 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
Ms. E. Creamer, Staff Officer

Prior to the business proper of the Meeting, His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Fahy, congratulated Andy Lee on winning the Irish Super Middleweight Title on 15th December and welcomed his upcoming professional boxing match in University of Limerick in February which will be the first professional boxing show ever to be held in Limerick. He wished him every success for the future.

All members associated with the words of congratulations to Andy Lee

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 26th November, 2007, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

In reply to Cllr. J. Leddin, the Senior Planner stated that the developer is to submit plans in respect of the derelict site in Carr Street adjacent to Watergate Flats . Every effort is being made to bring the work on this site to a satisfactory conclusion .

Cllr. J. Leddin asked the Senior Planner to write to the developer again on the matter.

Cllrs. Cronin and K. Leddin asked that members be circulated with a list of estates taken in charge by Limerick City Council.

Cllr. Wallace asked that the road in Norwood Park be resurfaced again as the initial job was not satisfactory.

In reply to Cllr. Hourigan, the Director of Service (Transportation and Infrastructure) stated that there is no legal mechanism to allow parking on the loading bays in the city during the Christmas period.

2. MINUTES

On the proposition of Cllr. O’Hanlon, seconded by Cllr. Cronin, it was unanimously agreed :

“That the Minutes of Special Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 3rd December, 2007, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

3. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION, ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING 3RD DECEMBER 2007

The Chairman’s Report, Environmental Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 3rd December, 2007, was noted.

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. K. Leddin and unanimously agreed to approve the following Recommendation from the Environmental Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 3rd December, 2007 :

“That monies be made available to upgrade the riverside walk at Cleeve’s Bank”.

Cllr. Hourigan stated that single seats should be provided along Clancy Strand and O’Callaghan Strand for locals as well as tourists and should be of a type which is a deterrent to vandals. Consideration should be given to providing a water feature for the Curragour Falls. The City Council should work in conjunction with Shannon Development and Failte Ireland when upgrading O’Callaghan Strand and Cleeves Bank.

In reply, the Director of Service (Transportation and Infrastructure) agreed to look at various types of seating appropriate to the riverside walk at Clancy Strand and O'Callaghan Strand. When the allocation under the Gateway Investment Fund is announced consideration could be given to the possibility of a water feature. Discussions have taken place with Shannon Development and Failte Ireland regarding the upgrading of O'Callaghan Strand and Cleeves Bank and it is hoped to progress this project in the next twelve months.

In reply to Cllr. Byrne, the Director of Service (Environment) agreed to circulate members with a report on litter fines.

Cllr. Cronin asked that the lights under Sarsfield Bridge be repaired.

4. REPORT, CULTURAL AND SPORTING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2007

The Chairman's Report, Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 10th December, 2007, was noted.

In reply to Cllr. Wallace, the Director of Service (Community and Enterprise) stated that it was agreed by the Management Committee of St. Enda's that the sports complex would be redeveloped under the Regeneration Project. In the interim Limerick City Council will continue to provide funding for it in conjunction with the Department of Education and Science.

Cllr. O'Hanlon pointed out that there is a serious problem of stolen cars entering the football pitches in Garryowen. This is a very important amenity in the area and should be protected.

In reply, the Director of Service stated that he hopes to have a short term solution in place this month to prevent cars entering the football pitches and permanent options are also being examined.

The Director of Service (Community and Enterprise) informed Cllr. K. Leddin that a report will be submitted to the City Council in the new year in relation to the LPYMA Grounds.

Cllr. McLoughlin suggested that a working forum on sport be established especially in view of the regeneration plans. He was informed by the Director of Service that Limerick City Sports Partnership is a working forum on sport in Limerick and is linked to the Development Board and the City Council.

The Director of Service informed Cllr. J. Leddin that provision has been made in the 2008 budget for a feasibility study for a new city centre library. Discussions have taken place with the Regeneration Committee about a new library for the south side of the city also.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Submitted letter of acknowledgement from Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., Minister for Transport regarding Limerick City Council's letter concerning the withdrawal by Aer Lingus of its Shannon to London Heathrow Service. Such letter assured Limerick City Council that he remains fully committed to ensuring the connectivity of the Shannon and wider Mid West region with short haul and long haul markets and his department will continue to deliver a range of transport infrastructure projects through the Transport 21 programme to further enhance access for the region.

Cllr. Walsh expressed disappointment at the contents of the Minister's reply.

It was proposed by Cllr. Houlihan, seconded by Cllr. O'Hanlon and unanimously agreed that Limerick East and West T.D.'s be invited to the next City Council Meeting to discuss the removal by Aer Lingus of its Shannon to London Heathrow Service.

Submitted list of Tenders opened in respect of the following :

Construction of a three storey block of 6 apartments together with ancillary site and development works at James Street / 24 and 25 Lower Gerald Griffin Street, Limerick.

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

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. Hourigan :

- (a) Disposal of lands consisting of an area comprising approximately 0.0139 hectares or thereabouts statute measure situate at Greenhills Road, Garryowen (Fuscos Takeaway) in the City of Limerick and shown edged red on Drawing No. AG/2069 to Garryowen Properties Limited.
- (b) Disposal of premises consisting of a dwelling house situate at 11, New Road, Kileely, in the City of Limerick and outlined hatched black on land registry map, Folio No. 13762F to Siobhan O'Halloran Duffy or her nominees.

8. PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS AT CONFERENCES

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

Seminar on Crime “Strategic Crime Prevention” “Effects of Crime on Society”,
“Organised and Feud Related Crime”, “Anti Social Behaviour”, “Regeneration”, “Work
Shops Analysis, Problem Solving”, “Real Live Issues, causes, solutions, preventions”,
To be held in the Greenhills Hotel, Limerick
24th – 25th January, 2007
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : Nil
Conference Fee : €275.00

The Conference Fee will be reduced for Limerick City and County Councillors.

Antrim Tourism Conference “Forty Shades of Green Tourism”
To be held in The Dunadry Hotel, Muckamore, Dunadry, Co. Antrim
1st – 2nd February, 2007
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €904.30
Conference Fee : €240.00

Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Spring Seminar 2008 “Local Authorities
and The Elderly, Local Government Reform, Changes necessary to serve Irish Society in
the new millennium, Adult and Community Education”
To be held in Trim Castle Hotel, Trim, Co. Meath
15th – 16th February, 2007
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €574.41
Conference Fee : €200.00

9. DECLARATION OF A ROAD TO BE A PUBLIC ROAD AT KYLEGLASS

It was proposed by Cllr. Hourigan, seconded by Cllr. Kiely and unanimously agreed to
approve declaration of a road to be a public road at Kyleglass (a cul de sac, commencing
at the junction with North Circular Road No. 59D and extending for a distance of 370
metres, in the City of Limerick).

10. REPORT ON CONTRIBUTION TO JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT IRELAND

It was proposed by Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. J. Leddin and unanimously agreed to
approve Report on contribution to Junior Achievement Ireland.

11. PLANNING PROPOSALS AND DECISIONS

The Meeting noted the list of planning proposals under consideration at 7th December,
2007 and Decisions taken from 19th November, 2007 to 7th December, 2007.

Cllr. Kiely, supported by Cllrs. Cronin, K. Leddin and Hourigan, stated that the residents
in the area are totally opposed to the application for an off-licence at the Shell Petrol
Station in Thomondgate as there are two off-licences in the area already.

The Senior Planner agreed with the Councillors regarding the number of off licences in the area appearing to be excessive. However, if Limerick City Council refuse this planning application there is no guarantee that An Bord Pleanala will refuse it also.

Cllrs. Walsh and K. Leddin expressed concern at 06/213 – Demolition of Strandville, Roseville and Curragour House and construction of apartments at Clancy Strand, Limerick. They said the Senior Planner should advise the developer what is appropriate for the site as the present proposal is not inkeeping with the area. Cllr. Hourigan pointed out that the residents in the area made their views very clear and the character of Clancy Strand should be maintained. Cllr. Byrne added that she too received representations regarding this planning application pointing out that the development is out of character with the area.

In reply, the Senior Planner stated that additional details were received in respect of this planning application a short time ago and a decision is imminent. He agreed to note members views.

In reply to Cllr. K. Leddin, the Senior Planner indicated that there has been no objection to planning application 07/205 – demolition and site development works at St. Lelia's Credit Union, 59, Ballynanty Road, Kileely.

The Senior Planner assured Cllr. Gilligan that the temporary kerbs erected in Henry Street to facilitate development there will be removed shortly subject to the instruction of the Director of Service (Transportation and Infrastructure) and then traffic can revert back to three lanes.

Cllrs. Gilligan, Wallace and Byrne welcomed planning application 07/450 – Development by Limerick Market Trustees at the Milk Market, Mungret Street.

Cllr. Wallace voiced her opposition to C05/3 – Recycling Centre for recycling of household waste at Childers Road and added that this is not a suitable site for a recycling facility.

In reply to Cllr. Hourigan, the Senior Planner stated that additional details were received a short time ago in respect of 07/151 – Construction of new primary school with associated works at J.F.K. Memorial School, North Circular Road/Ennis Road and a decision on same will be made very shortly.

12. AN BORD PLEANALA

The Meeting noted the Decisions taken by An Bord Pleanala from 19th November, 2007 to 7th December, 2007.

13. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF SERVICE DATED 6TH DECEMBER, 2007

Submitted Report from Director of Service dated 6th December, 2007, which was adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Wallace, seconded by Cllr. Houlihan :

“Fire safety upgrading works to party and external walls together with ancillary site development works at 1 to 110 Glasgow Park, Limerick”. (C07/6)

Cllrs. Wallace and Houlihan welcomed this proposed work and expressed hope that the work will proceed as fast as possible.

14. 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 Site A, Page 39 City Centre Strategy Draft, zoned as general purpose and also designated as a candidate special area of conservation (PC SAC), would be changed from general purpose zoning and fully designated as an area of special conservation.

That the appeal by Limerick City Council against the designation of this site as special area of conservation would be withdrawn.

Site A is adjacent to the River Shannon and the Wetlands at Westfield. It is home to numerous species of flora and fauna, many unique in these islands. Development of this area would interfere with this natural habitat. Limerick City Council should seek funding from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to enhance and sustain this area in conjunction with the improvements proposed for the riverside walk”.

Signed : Cllr. Kathleen Leddin

15. 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 in view of the increasing traffic volumes on the main Ballinacurra Road and South Circular Road, consider the placing of a signalised pedestrian crossing at the intersection between the South Circular Road and Ballinacurra Road, so as to improve pedestrian safety and facilitate local residents crossing the Ballinacurra Road in a safe manner”.

Signed : Cllr. Joe Leddin

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 provide in the following areas

- (a) ramps on Schoolhouse Lane to slow down the traffic that use this road as a ratrun.
- (b) Provide a sweeper and regular cleaning at least once a week for Wolfe Tone Street, St. Joseph’s Street, Bowman Street, Edward Street, Vizes Court, Emmet Place, Mt. Pleasant Ave., McNamara Terrace, St. Joseph’s Place, School House Lane, Barrack Hill, Roden Street, Spellacy Square, Grattan Villas, O’Connell Avenue, Crescent Avenue, Clontarf Place, Gerard Street, Quinn Street, Verona Esplanade, Verona Park, as these streets are in a bad state.
- (c) Provide improved lighting in the general area listed above as there has been a lot of anti social behaviour in the above areas.
- (d) Patrol the disc parking areas including Vizes Court.
- (e) Apply for funding to provide security cameras in all the areas listed above due to the anti social behaviour”.

Signed : Cllr. Maria Byrne

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 remove the coating of tarmacadam put on the Avenues off the Greenfields Road due to the problems caused by the uneven surface on the avenues, that this surface be replaced by genuine tarmacadam and that the Greenfields Road be also tarmacadamed and the footpaths be upgraded in the area as they are in a poor state and that the gullies in the area be cleaned to alleviate the ongoing problem of flooding”.

Signed : Cllr. Maria Byrne

18. 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 conduct a complete review of street lighting throughout Ward 4 with a view to improving the poor quality of lighting in specific streets and housing estates”.

Signed : Cllr. Joe Leddin

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Long referred to a forty page document on a website regarding the revitalisation of Limerick and he suggested that the persons who published this report be asked to address the City Council.

The City Manager pointed out that there are parts of this report positive and useful and apply to the greater area of Limerick. Members should get a full understanding of the report prior to forming an opinion and suggested that an Information Session be held to brief members on the document.

Cllr. Kiely asked who commissioned and paid for this document and was informed by the City Manager that it originated from meetings held during the year about Limerick having an iconic development. Limerick City Council has contributed to this document as well as Shannon Development.

Cllr. K. Leddin pointed out that she heard Shannon Development held a meeting with Residents Associations regarding the Westfields Wetlands and expressed concern that the Elected Members were not briefed by Shannon Development and asked for more information on this matter.

THE MEETING THEN ADJOURNED

A TRUE RECORD

**T. MACKEY
CITY MANAGER**

CONFIRMED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2008.

MAYOR OF LIMERICK