

LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL

A Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Monday, 22nd December, 2008 at 4.00 p.m.

The following were in attendance :

IN THE CHAIR : Cllr. J. Gilligan, Mayor

COUNCILLORS : M. Hourigan, K. Leddin, J. Cronin, K. Kiely, J. Ryan, K. O’Hanlon, G. McLoughlin, D. Scully, G. Fahy, 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. D. Tobin, Senior Planner
Ms. P. Liddy, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. N. O’Connor, Staff Officer
Ms. E. Creamer, Staff Officer

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 November, 2008, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

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 24th November, 2008, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

3. MINUTES

On the proposition of Cllr. Houlihan, seconded by Cllr. J. Leddin, it was unanimously agreed :

“That the Minutes of Annual Budget Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 11th December, 2008, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

Cllr. Kiely enquired about the security gates for the flats in Shelbourne and Kileely Road and expressed concern at the reduction in funds for the running of the centre in Kileely and asked that a Ward Meeting be arranged with the Manager of the Centre.

The Director of Service (Housing) agreed to check out the matters and revert back.

Cllr. J. Leddin asked that a Meeting (in Committee) be arranged with Senior Management of the Regeneration, the City Manager, Management Team and the Elected Members to list priorities of the Regeneration Project as there is a lot of confusion among residents within the regeneration areas.

In reply, the Director of Service (Housing) stated that there is a clear plan for regeneration. A bid has gone to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the City Council is presently awaiting a reply. As soon as a reply has been received from the Department he will organise a Special Meeting of the City Council.

Cllr. Wallace pointed out that some pages were missing from the Minutes of the Annual Budget Meeting and the Head of Finance agreed to give a full copy to any members who were missing pages.

Cllr. Kiely pointed out that the developers of the Coonagh Cross development have indicated that they would like to address the Economic Policy Development and Future Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting at it's next meeting scheduled to take place on the 19th January, 2009. He pointed out that the Developers do not intend appealing Limerick City Council's decision on the planning application.

The City Manager pointed out that the City Council will be reviewing it's Development Plan and Retail Study for the region. He added that if the Councillors wish to meet the developers he would have no objection, however, the City Council must be careful where a planning application has been refused and not appealed. It is up to the Elected Members themselves if they wish to support shopping in the suburbs as opposed to the city centre.

Cllr. O'Hanlon pointed out that he has no objection to business people coming in to City Hall to promote their business, however, the Chairman of the Economic Policy Development and Future Planning SPC should decide about the developers addressing the Meeting.

Cllr. Kennedy enquired if it is part of the work of the Planning Strategic Policy Committee to deal with big planning applications in the context of Standing Orders and the law. Transparency is very important and all businesses whether big or small should be treated the same way.

The City Manager pointed out that the role of the Strategic Policy Committee is to advise members on policy matters and it would not be appropriate to discuss individual planning applications at an SPC Meeting. Planning applications are usually discussed at Consultation or Area Meetings. He added that if the developers of the Coonagh Cross development were allowed to address the Planning SPC Meeting then the City Council could be overloaded with such requests. He pointed out that decisions on planning applications is an Executive Function.

Cllr. Kiely pointed out that the developers of the Opera Centre were allowed to address the Planning SPC so a precedent has already been set. He voiced his support for the Coonagh Cross development which would provide 1800 free car parking spaces and a much needed shopping development in the northside of the city. Also, if granted planning permission, this development would generate much needed finance from rates to the City Council. Proper parking facilities are needed in the city centre and this is a contributing factor why so many people shop in the suburbs.

Cllr. Cronin stated he had no objection to the proposed Coonagh Cross development, however, the planning application was refused and enquired why the City Council's decision was not appealed to An Bord Pleanala. He asked what a Meeting with the Developers would achieve now.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Gilligan said he would have no objection about having a meeting with the developers, however, it must be done on specific points. He said he would ask the Chairman of the Economic Policy Development and Future Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting to facilitate such a meeting.

Cllr. O'Hanlon proposed that the Chairman of the Planning SPC be asked to facilitate such a meeting. This was unanimously agreed.

In reply to Cllr. Fahy, the Director of Service (Housing) stated that funding has been applied for to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for the continuation of the City Co-Ordinators adding that their existing contract is due to expire in March 2009.

4. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS, CULTURAL AND SPORTING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8TH DECEMBER, 2008.

The Chairman's Report, Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 8th December, 2008, was noted.

Submitted the following Recommendations from the Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 8th December, 2008, which were adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Kiely :

“To send a letter of congratulations to St. Munchin's Community Centre on receiving a national prize in the Pride of Place Competition”.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Gilligan stated that he has already sent such a letter of congratulations.

“To ask the Mayor to hold a formal reception for the Ardschoil Ris Team who won the under 16’s Munster Title in hurling”.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Gilligan stated that he accorded a Mayoral Reception to Ardscoil Ris on Tuesday, 16th December, 2008.

Cllr. J. Leddin asked for an update in relation to Caledonian Park with a view to incorporating it in the Regeneration Plans. He asked if there are any negotiations going on with the Football Association of Ireland. He expressed concern at the lack of tenure for existing clubs using the park.

In reply, the Head of Finance stated that there are no discussions taking place with the FAI regarding Caledonian Park. There are some proposals for the Park in the Southside Master Plan and he advised that these will be considered as part of the Development Plan Review. He noted that the Southside Plan stated the intention that Caledonian Park zonings remain as they are currently.

Cllr. J. Leddin welcomed the restoration of the old city walls at Lower Gerald Griffin Street.

Cllr. O’Hanlon pointed out that when the Greyhound Board move out of the Markets Field it will provide a great opportunity for the city for development. It would be an ideal location for a joint development between the City Council, the VEC and Soccer Clubs. It would be a very suitable location also for a community centre. He proposed that the City Manager would hold discussions with the Chief Executive Officer of the VEC and the Manager of Bord na gCon and to set up a Committee to look at the future of the Markets Field. It should be continued as a sporting facility and Government funding sought. Cllr. J. Leddin seconded Cllr. O’Hanlon’s proposal.

The City Manager pointed out that he is aware of the significance of the Markets Field and it’s potential. The City Council does not have the finance to purchase the Markets Field and therefore, it would be pointless forming a Committee to look at the future of the facility without any finance. He added that he has spoken to Bord na gCon and also the GAA but unfortunately, they have no finance either to develop it.

Cllr. K. Leddin stated that there are a lot of sporting clubs who would like to use the LPYMA Grounds. She referred to the Theatre Royal which is a very large building and said that most people who would wish to use it only need a small facility and these should be taken into consideration when developing the Theatre Royal. She asked that arrangements be made with the Curator of the Museum for the Elected Members to visit the Museum.

In reply, the Director of Service (Community and Enterprise) pointed out that it is hoped to advance proposals for the development of the Theatre Royal next year. He agreed to arrange for the Elected Members to visit the Museum.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Submitted letter from the Private Secretary to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government acknowledging receipt of Limerick City Council's letter in connection with the Council's Motion regarding appointments to the Limerick Regeneration Board and stating that a further letter on the matter will issue as soon as possible.

Submitted letter from the President of the Munster Branch thanking His Worship the Mayor and the City Council for according them a Civic Reception to honour the Munster .V. New Zealand fixture.

Submitted list of Tenders opened in respect of the following :

Review of the Mid West Retail Strategy 2003 – 2011
Fuel / Oil Requirements 2009

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. J. Leddin :

- (a) Disposal of area consisting of a plot of land comprising 0.0086 hectares situate at the rear of 35, Mary Street in the City of Limerick and shown edged red on Drawing No. AG 3009 to Peter O'Hanrahan or his nominees.

7. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Submitted Financial Statement for the month of November, 2008, which was adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. J. Leddin.

8. BORROWING BY WAY OF OVERDRAFT FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2009.

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. J. Leddin and unanimously agreed to authorise the borrowing by way of overdraft for the half year ended 30th June, 2009 in the sum of €32,000,000.

9. PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS AT CONFERENCES

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

Antrim Tourism Conference organised jointly by Clare Tourist Council and Antrim Borough Council "Activities Tourism"

Held in Dunadry Hotel, Muckamore, Dunadry, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland
23rd and 24th January, 2009.

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €912.10
Conference Fee : €245.00

Cross Border Healthcare – EU’s Added Value in Action :
“What Lessons can Ireland learn from Europe”

Held in Park Hotel, Charleville, Co. Cork
31st January, 2009.

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €202.78
Conference Fee : Nil

Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Spring Seminar 2009

Held in Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
13th and 14th February, 2009

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €826.38
Conference Fee : €200.00

Mid West Regional Authority 15th Annual Conference
“Ireland’s Water : What is the real cost ?”

Held in Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick
19th and 20th February, 2009.

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €169.01
Conference Fee : €180.00

**10. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT ON AMENDMENT NO. 1 OF THE
CAHERDAVIN LOCAL AREA PLAN 2005 – 2011 AND TO RESOLVE TO
MAKE THE AMENDMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY
MANAGER’S REPORT**

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. J. Leddin and unanimously agreed to approve the City Manager’s Report on Amendment No. 1 of the Caherdavin Local Area Plan 2005 – 2011 and to resolve to make the Amendment in accordance with the City Manager’s Report.

**11. NOMINATE THREE MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF PAUL
PARTNERSHIP LIMERICK (REDUCTION FROM FOUR MEMBERS)**

Cllr. Byrne stated that she wished to resign from the Board of Paul Partnership as she had served two terms.

It was proposed by Cllr. Hourigan and seconded by Cllr. O’Hanlon to nominate Cllr. Kiely to the board.

It was proposed by Cllr. O’Hanlon and seconded by Cllr. Kiely to nominate Cllr. Walsh to the board.

It was proposed by Cllr. Scully and seconded by Cllr. Kiely to nominate Cllr. Long to the board.

It was therefore unanimously agreed to nominate Cllrs. Kiely, Walsh and Long to the Board of Paul Partnership Limerick.

12. DRAFT POLLING SCHEME 2009

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. J. Leddin and unanimously agreed to adopt Draft Polling Scheme 2009.

Cllrs. Kennedy, O'Hanlon and J. Leddin paid tribute to the staff and Field Workers involved in the preparation and updating of the Register of Electors.

Cllr. Scully indicated that Bloodmill Road does not exist and this road should be called Old Singland Road and added that the residents want this road to be referred to as such.

Cllr. Kennedy suggested that the new premises acquired by the Friends of the Elderly in Upper Careys Road be used as a Polling Station especially as the Band Room is now closed.

Cllr. J. Leddin suggested that the Limerick City Art Gallery also be considered as a location for a Polling Station as it would facilitate people living in the city centre and also as it is wheelchair accessible.

Cllr. Byrne referred to the residents of the six houses in Ashbourne Villas who usually vote in the Model School and pointed out that the Polling Station at Scoil Carmel would be more appropriate for such residents as it is nearer.

The Director of Service (Housing and Corporate Services) agreed to look at the above matters raised by members.

13. APPROVE DECLARATION OF A ROAD TO BE A PUBLIC ROAD AT COOLRAINE HEIGHTS, OLD CRATLOE ROAD, A SERIES OF FIVE ROADS, FOUR ROAD SEGMENTS LINKED WITH A SINGLE ROAD ACCESS TO PUBLIC ROAD NO. 26 CRATLOE ROAD

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. J. Leddin and unanimously agreed to approve declaration of a road to be a public road at Coolraine Heights, Old Cratloe Road, a series of five roads, four road segments linked with a single road access to public road no. 26 Cratloe Road.

14. PLANNING PROPOSALS AND DECISIONS

The Meeting noted the list of Planning Proposals under consideration at 12th December, 2008 and Decisions taken from 17th November, 2008 to 12th December, 2008.

Cllr. Wallace referred to C07/1 – fire safety upgrading works to party and external walls with ancillary site development works at 1 – 110 Glasgow Park and asked that it be removed from the list of developments under consideration.

In reply, the Senior Planner stated that applications can not be removed from the list unless withdrawn by the applicant.

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 would install CCTV cameras in Westfield Wildlife Sanctuary in the vicinity of the viewing platform which has been a target for vandals on occasions”.

Signed : Cllr. Kathleen 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 would request the ESB to provide public lighting on the footpath leading from Westfield Park, through the sanctuary to the Condell Road. This would be a safety measure for the many people who use this pathway in the late afternoon and evening”.

Signed : Cllr. Kathleen Leddin

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In reply to Cllr. Kiely, the Director of Service (Community and Enterprise) stated that application forms are presently being compiled for Sports Grants and once completed Ward Meetings can then take place.

Cllr. Wallace asked that the Galvone Road be resurfaced in January.

THE MEETING THEN ADJOURNED

A TRUE RECORD

**T. MACKEY
CITY MANAGER**

CONFIRMED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2008

MAYOR OF LIMERICK

