

ITEM NO. 1

LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL

A Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Tuesday, 25th March, 2008 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, P. Kennedy, M. Byrne, J. Leddin and J. Long

STAFF : Mr. T. Mackey, City Manager
Mr. K. Lehane, 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. Keane, Senior Engineer
Mr. V. Murray, Senior Engineer
Mr. J. O'Shaughnessy, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. R. McDermott, Senior Executive Technician
Ms. J. Ryan, Acting Senior Executive Officer
Ms. M. Hayes, Administrative Officer
Ms. E. Creamer, Staff Officer

Prior to the business proper of the Meeting, His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Fahy proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the wife and family of the late Larry Coyle, former Planning Officer with Limerick City Council. He also extended a vote of sympathy to Mr. Tom Mackey, City Manager, on the death of his father, Tom.

The Director of Service (Corporate Services and Housing), on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff of the City Council, also wished to be associated with the votes of sympathy.

The City Manager thanked the Mayor and members for their expressions of sympathy to him on the death of his father. He too extended his condolences to the wife and family of the late Larry Coyle.

All members associated with the votes of sympathy.

The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect.

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 25th February, 2008, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

2. REPORT, SOCIAL POLICY AND HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3RD MARCH, 2008.

The Chairman’s Report, Social Policy and Housing Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 3rd March, 2008, was noted.

Cllr. Byrne pointed out that there has been a lot of anti social behaviour taking place in Clarina Park over the last few weekends and said she feared for the health and safety of residents in the area. She asked that the matter be treated as a matter of urgency and a Ward Meeting called as soon as possible regarding same.

In reply, the Director of Service (Housing) agreed that the anti social behaviour presently taking place in Clarina Park is unacceptable and agreed to arrange a meeting with the Gardai, residents and Ward Members.

Cllr. J. Leddin welcomed the work being carried out by the Community Co-Ordinators and added that they are engaging well with residents. He welcomed the staffing changes in the Housing Department and added that it’s biggest challenge is reducing the housing waiting list. The City Council should be more pro-active in providing housing for the vulnerable in our community. He asked if any inspections have been carried out on private rented dwellings in the city. He agreed with Cllr. Byrne regarding Clarina Park.

In reply, the Director of Service (Housing) stated that every effort will be made to reduce the housing waiting list and provide for the vulnerable in our community. He stated that private rented dwellings are inspected under the RAS Programme.

Cllr. Long concurred with the previous speakers regarding Clarina Park which has a knock on effect on other areas in the locality. He welcomed the fact that Senior Staff from the Regeneration Programme were meeting with the Elected Representatives tomorrow.

In reply to Cllr. McLoughlin, the Director of Service (Housing) stated that once a local authority house is boarded up, the City Council is responsible for it’s security. A lot of money has been spent on clearing rubbish. Approval has been received to appoint eight staff members to work in estate management.

Cllr. O'Hanlon enquired when the City Council will have plans for the provision of new houses particularly for single men. Bridgeland House in St. John's Square is causing ongoing problems in the immediate area and are affecting the community and he suggested that it be moved to another location. He complimented all involved in the affordable housing scheme of eighteen houses in Rhebogue and encouraged more such housing. He referred to the halting site in Rhebogue and asked how much it would cost to refurbish the site and asked for a meeting to be arranged for the Ward Councillors to discuss this matter.

In reply, the Director of Service stated that as many options as possible are being examined in relation to the various types of housing required. He agreed to organise a meeting for the Ward Councillors.

In reply to Cllr. Walsh, the Director stated that St. Mary's Park will be included in the Regeneration Project.

3. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS, TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10TH MARCH, 2008

The Chairman's Report, Transportation and Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 10th March, 2008 was noted.

Submitted the following Recommendations from the Transportation and Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 10th March, 2008 which were adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Kiely :

(a) Roads Programme 2008

It was unanimously agreed to adopt the Roads Programme 2008.

(b) Notice of Motion

Currently Limerick City Council Bye Laws state that once parking is removed from a street the residents have no entitlement to a residents permit for any alternative street to park. I wish to propose 'that Limerick City Council change this bye law to enable the residents of the pedestrianised areas to have a residents permit to park on an alternative nearby street. We are trying to encourage people to live in the City Centre so we should provide them with a residents disc in order to accommodate them. Thomas Street and Catherine Street are examples of streets where parking is being removed yet families reside in those streets. We should do all in our power to accommodate these centre city residents'.

Signed : Cllr. Maria Byrne

The Report of the Director of Transportation and Infrastructure dated 28th February, 2008 was unanimously agreed.

In reply to Cllr. Gilligan, the Director of Service (Transportation and Infrastructure) agreed that the Corbally Road is a narrow road. The Coonagh Knockalisheen Road is currently being designed and this is expected to be the first phase of the Northern Distributor Road. Pedestrian crossings are necessary as pedestrians have to be facilitated as well as motorists. Traffic management is always under review and is revisited all the time.

In reply to Cllr. Wallace, the Director agreed to examine the railings on the Childers Road and to look at the public lighting on the bridge. He added that he hopes to have a Ward Meeting within the next few weeks.

Cllr. Long pointed out that there are nine sets of traffic lights between Ballinacurra and Sarsfield Street which, in his opinion, is excessive.

Cllr. K. Leddin asked that the two sets of traffic lights outside the Hilton Hotel be looked at as they could cause an accident. She referred to the water connections in many parts of the city which are old and are giving a lot of trouble. She enquired if there is any funding available to replace these lead connections. She expressed concern at traffic gridlock on the Ennis Road and North Circular Road and asked that a traffic plan be prepared for these areas to alleviate the congestion. She stated that the pedestrian crossing on the Condell Road makes the road very narrow and suggested that consideration be given to a footbridge there instead. She also suggested that Councillors be taken out around the city and shown the various projects presently underway.

In reply, the Director of Service stated that water pressure in the city has improved generally, however, he agreed to re-examine certain areas where problems are still being experienced. There is no funding available from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for lead pipe replacement, however, the City Council will be endeavouring to secure some water conservation funding.

The Director informed Cllr. Hourigan that he will examine the conditions of the planning permission for the G.A.A. Grounds and said that signs will be erected to discourage parking on the green areas during matches. He agreed to meet with Officials from the G.A.A. and the Gardai to discuss the matter.

In reply to Cllr. Kiely, the City Manager stated that funding from rates from businesses in the areas now in the city due to the borough boundary extension will be used to maintain these areas this year and next year the extended areas will be incorporated into the annual budget.

Cllr. Gilligan suggested that a Linear Park be provided up to the University and that a tram system be incorporated into any future plans.

In reply, the Director of Service (Transportation and Infrastructure) stated that these matters will be addressed in the Planning, Land Use and Transportation Study.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Submitted letter from Michael Noonan, T.D., enclosing acknowledgement he received from Mr. John Gormley, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government following his representations in support of the Resolution adopted by Limerick City Council on 28th February, 2008 regarding taxi plates.

Submitted list of Tenders opened in respect of the following :

- (a) Supply of clothing requirements for Porters and Park Rangers 2008.
- (b) St. Francis Place Road Improvements Contract.

Submitted letter to His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Fahy from the Chairman of Limerick Civic Trust conveying sincere thanks and appreciation to Limerick City Council for its support and assistance extended to them on the occasion of their 25th anniversary celebration. He also thanked the Mayor for the Mayoral Reception he accorded for the guests which gave a great sense of occasion and a gesture which the Trust deeply appreciated.

Submitted letter from Mr. Tom Mackey, City Manager enclosing his formal notification, as the City Manager of Limerick City Council, under Section 147 of the Local Government Act, 2001, of the extension of his tenure of office as City Manager by a period of three years to 13th April, 2013. He indicated that he looked forward to the continued excellent working relationship between himself and the members of the Council and thanked His Worship the Mayor for all his help and assistance.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Fahy, welcomed the City Manager's extension of his tenure of office as City Manager of Limerick City Council.

5. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

Submitted the following Disposal of Properties 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 land consisting of an area comprising 0.1675 hectares situate at Mary Street in the City of Limerick and outlined in red on Drawing No. MIS 254 to Peter Madden or his nominees (deferred at Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 25th February, 2008).
- (b) Disposal of land consisting of an area comprising 0.0356 hectares situate at Bridge Street in the City of Limerick and outlined in red on Drawing No. AG 2084 to Mr. John Walsh, Cherryfox Developments or his nominees.
- (c) Disposal of plot of land 2.797 hectares situate at Barry's Field, Rathbane in the City of Limerick and outlined in red on Drawing No. AG/2057 to the Trustees of Carew Park AFC or its nominees (amendment to previous Section 183 approved at City Council Meeting held on 2nd July, 2007).

- (d) Disposal of land consisting of a plot of ground containing an area of 0.7994 hectares situate at Rathuard Road, Kennedy Park in the City of Limerick and outlined in red on Drawing No. AG/2087 to The Trustees of Roxboro United AFC.
- (e) Disposal of lands consisting of an area comprising approximately 0.1744 hectares or thereabouts statute measure situate at Sarsfield Bridge in the City of Limerick and shown edged red on Drawing No. MIS 330 to the Trustees of Limerick Boat Club.
- (f) Disposal of lands consisting of an area comprising approximately 0.23 hectares or thereabouts statute measure situate at Dublin Road / Groody Bridge, Limerick and shown edged red on Drawing No. AG 2091 to Wadlow Limited.

Cllr. J. Leddin declared that he had an interest in 5 (e)

In reply to Cllr. K. Leddin regarding the disposal of lands at Sarsfield Bridge to the Trustees of Limerick Boat Club, the Head of Finance stated that Limerick City Council had received a request from Limerick Boat Club to acquire freehold interest in the land which is their statutory right. They are entitled by law to acquire this freehold interest and they are not obliged to inform the City Council what they propose to do with the land. He added that there has been pre planning discussions in relation to this site. However, any development of the site will require the approval of the City Council as the site is zoned open space.

In reply to Cllr. O'Hanlon regarding the disposal of lands at Dublin Road / Groody Bridge to Wadlow Limited, the Head of Finance stated that this land was acquired as part of the Compulsory Purchase Order for the Parkway to Groody Road and is now surplus to requirements.

Submitted the following Disposal of Property in accordance with Notices already circulated under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 which, on the proposition of Cllr. J. Leddin, seconded by Cllr. Houlihan, was unanimously agreed to defer to the April Meeting of City Council to facilitate a meeting with Members for further discussion on the site :

- (g) Disposal of area consisting of a plot of land comprising 1.266 hectares situate at Lord Edward Street in the City of Limerick and outlined in red on Drawing No. AG 2090 to Mr. Desmond Houlihan of Barons Equity or his nominees.

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

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

In reply to Cllr. Scully, the Head of Finance stated that the City Council's overdraft in the bank is quite high and continues to be a matter of concern. However, the overdraft is reduced to €8m today. Significant provisions were made in the Estimates for an overdraft. He indicated that he expects to have the overdraft cleared by the summer and it is not necessary to relook at the budgets at this stage.

The Head of Finance confirmed to Cllr. Kiely that the large development contribution from the proposed development in Caherdavin, for which a planning application has been granted by Limerick County Council, will be paid to Limerick City Council.

7. PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS AT CONFERENCES

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

Irish Planning Institute National Planning Conference 2008
Held in the Castlecourt Hotel and Westport Plaza, Westport, Co. Mayo
3rd and 4th April, 2008
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €439.16
Conference Fee : €430.00

Sherkin Island Marine Station 24th Annual Environmental Conference
Held in The Carrigaline Court Hotel, Carrigaline, Co. Cork.
17th and 18th April, 2008
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €319.67
Conference Fee : €285.00

Chambers Ireland 2008 Local Economic and Social Development Conference
Held in The Marriott Hotel, Henry Street, Limerick
21st April, 2008
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : Nil
Conference Fee : €180.00 Plus VAT

North South Confederation of Councillors Information and Training Seminar
"Developments in the Planning Systems, North and South"
Held in The Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh
24th April, 2008
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €550.86
Conference Fee : €190.00

Conference of the Isles Housing Conference 2008
Held in The Silversprings Moran Hotel, Tivoli, Cork
24th – 25th April, 2008
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €304.09
Conference Fee : €225.00

Tipperary Peace Convention International Peace Conference
Held in Tipperary Town
25th – 27th April, 2008
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €343.22
Conference Fee : €150.00

Local Authority Anti Poverty Learning Network Meeting
Held in Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
30th April, 2008
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €436.57
Conference Fee : €75.00

Border, Midland and Western Regional Assembly Annual Conference
Held in The Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois
1st May, 2008
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €322.27
Conference Fee : €150.00

8. GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (FAILTE IRELAND) TO LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL

On the proposition of Cllr. J. Leddin, seconded by Cllr. K. Walsh, it was unanimously agreed to approve the terms of the Grant from the National Tourism Development Authority (Failte Ireland) to Limerick City Council in the maximum amount of €1,595,341.00 to part fund the Clancy Strand and Curragour Riverside Park Upgrade.

Cllr. Hourigan suggested that provision be made for a water feature on the Curragour Falls adjacent to King John's Castle but was informed by the Director of Service (Transportation and Infrastructure) that the Grant was specific to Clancy Strand and that there was no provision for the Curragour Falls.

9. REPORT ON CORRIDOR SELECTION STUDY FOR GREEN ROUTES FOR LIMERICK CITY

The Senior Engineer (Roads) gave a presentation on the Corridor Selection Study for Green Routes for Limerick City.

Cllr. Byrne welcomed members of the public to the meeting. She stated that she is living on one of the proposed routes and would have major concerns regarding parking for residents if bus routes are implemented in O'Connell Avenue. She asked how many objections were received and how many letters in favour of the proposed bus route in O'Connell Avenue / Ballinacurra were received. It is indicated in the report that the bus routes would only operate from 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and from 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. She stated that these times would not suit a lot of people living along the route particularly businesses and particularly owners of Bed and Breakfast premises. Taxis can only use the green routes if they have a fare on board. She stated that Mulgrave Street is not a very wide street and, in her opinion, would not be wide enough to accommodate green routes. She enquired how many students avail of the bus service as many students have their own cars nowadays. She confirmed that she agreed in principle with green routes and with the enhancement of the city, however, she proposed that the proposed green route for O'Connell Avenue / Ballinacurra be relocated to the Dock Road and she also proposed that the green route for Mulgrave Street be eliminated.

Cllr. Long seconded her proposal.

Cllr. J. Leddin indicated that he has no principle objection to bus routes in general. He stated that he would confine his comments to the proposed routes in O'Connell Avenue/Ballinacurra and also Mulgrave Street. He believes that the objections put forward by the residents and the business people in these areas are genuine and there is no malice in same. The proposed routes would cause too much disruption to communities. He also indicated that the consultation process with the residents was not satisfactory as the routes would have a serious effect on the quality of lives of the people living in the areas concerned. There are other suitable locations in the city but not O'Connell Avenue/Ballinacurra and Mulgrave Street. He referred to the submission from the students in University of Limerick suggesting Clare Street as suitable for a green route. Also there are no park and ride facilities in place in the city.

STANDING ORDERS

Standing Orders were suspended for thirty minutes on the proposition of Cllr. O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr. Cronin.

Cllr. Cronin supported the previous speakers and said he can understand the frustration and anger felt by the residents and business people in the areas concerned. He pointed out that there has been no widening of the Ennis Road in over one hundred years. He said there are a lot of businesses along the proposed routes and what would happen them if there was no parking outside their premises. There are also a lot of churches along some of the proposed routes which would also cause parking problems. In his opinion, the Condell Road would be suitable for a green route. He pointed out that he supports green routes generally however, not in areas where businesses and residents are affected. Thomond Bridge is not a suitable area and Clancy Strand would be too narrow for green routes.

Cllr. Kennedy extended a warm welcome to the members of the public present at the meeting. Such residents are concerned about the effect the proposed green routes will have on the quality of their lives. He said there was over 400 letters of objection from residents in Ballinacurra. He referred to the fact that the closing date for receipt of submissions in respect of the green routes was 18th March 2008, however, the report was published on 20th March, 2008. In his opinion, the statement by the consultants is misleading and there is only one sentence in Limerick City Council's Development Plan about bus routes. The proposed bus routes in O'Connell Avenue/Ballinacurra would affect the ambience of the area and the quality of life of it's residents and he said he would oppose the proposed green routes democratically and legally. He agreed with Cllr. Byrne's proposal.

Cllr. Hourigan also welcomed the members of the public to the meeting. He pointed out that the Ennis Road is in his Electoral Area and the concern here in respect of the proposed green routes is the affect on parking as there are a lot of schools, churches and businesses on this route. No provision has been indicated in the presentation for alternative parking. He proposed that the proposed green route on the Ennis Road be deleted and replaced with a green route on the Condell Road.

Cllr. Kiely seconded Cllr. Hourigan's proposal.

Cllr. Houlihan welcomed the residents and business people to the Council Chamber. In his opinion, the concerns of the residents were not taken into consideration when preparing the Report on Corridor Selection Study for Green Routes for the city.

Cllr. O'Hanlon also welcomed the members of the public to this meeting. Green routes are necessary as there is major traffic congestion in the city. Deliveries and drop offs to public houses, shop owners and business people would become very difficult in some areas where the green routes are proposed. Also residents would no longer be able to park their cars outside their homes which would be a big problem for elderly people or people with young children. The concerns expressed are genuine and serious. In his opinion, a little bit of flexibility by Bus Eireann would help the situation. A Park and Ride system could be a way of alleviating some of the traffic congestion in the city. He asked if the Elected Representatives had the legal right to stop the proposed green routes going ahead.

STANDING ORDERS

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

Cllr. Long stated that he discussed at length with Senior staff in Dublin and Cork City Councils about green routes and the relevant Acts. He appealed to the City Manager to reconsider the proposed green routes and to take into consideration the views of the residents and Elected Representatives. He added that consultation is not agreement.

Cllr. Scully welcomed the members of the public to the meeting. He apologised to the member of the public who he instructed to be present at 4.15 as this item was much later commencing. He proposed the adoption of the green route from the Dublin Road to the Parkway Shopping Centre and the Childers Road. He would have concerns regarding the proposed bus route in Bengal Terrace, however, such issues could be resolved. The road space in the city is very valuable and further discussion is needed in this matter. A lot of detail is missing from the report and it is difficult to agree something without all the relevant information.

Cllr. K. Leddin pointed out that the business people are being very badly affected by the proposed green routes. The Ennis Road has not changed in years and the proposed green routes would ruin the aspect of the road and upset a lot of settled people in the area. It also does not add to privacy for people. She asked why the City Council is pushing to have the green routes implemented in the near future as the tunnel will not be ready until the end of 2010. She asked if there will be a need for all the proposed bus routes and if people will use the buses. At present the buses that run on the Ennis Road are rarely full. She suggested Park and Ride System at Coonagh Cross and that smaller type buses be used to transport people into the city. She suggested that a commitment be sought from Bus Eireann for such small type buses.

Cllr. Ryan stated that he would be opposed to the proposed green routes on O'Connell Avenue/Ballinacurra, Mulgrave Street and Ennis Road and suggested that the Dock Road and Condell Road would be more suitable locations.

Cllr. Kiely fully supported the previous speakers. He proposed that Sexton Street North also be deleted from the list of proposed green routes.

Cllr. Hourigan seconded this proposal.

Cllr. McLoughlin stated that he would not be in favour of the green routes as proposed despite the fact that there are none proposed in his Electoral Area. Limerick is a small city with narrow roads and is not similar to Dublin size wise.

Cllr. Wallace stated that she would not be in favour of green routes in both directions on the Childers Road as it is not wide enough to accommodate them. If the road had to be widened it would necessitate the removal of the cycle lanes. She also expressed concern about the proposed green route in Bengal Terrace. She pointed out that the bus service is not as regular or as good as the bus service in Dublin and it is not appropriate to be comparing Limerick with Dublin. She asked if the City Manager can overrule the Councillors in this matter.

Cllr. Gilligan supported his colleagues. The city is choking at present and an integrated traffic system will have to be implemented and other issues will have to be looked at. Pedestrianisation of the city has been very satisfactory, however, more multi storey car parks are required in the city.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Fahy acknowledged that the members put a lot of work and research into examining the report on the proposals for the green routes and engaged in a widespread consultation. After listening to the members contributions this afternoon we are now where near reaching a conclusion. He asked the Officials to take on board the views of the members. He said he could not see the logic of a bus route in Bengal Terrace. This road was made a one way to reduce speeding and there are also two grave yards in this area and a green route along here would cause further traffic chaos especially during funerals. He thanked members for their constructive comments.

The City Manager said as the meeting was running so late it would not be possible to adequately respond to all the items raised by the members. Limerick City Council does not have the option of ignoring transportation and traffic congestion in the city and plans for the future have to be made and sustainable services have to be put in place. Public Consultation did take place and people who support the proposed bus routes were not asked to come along to the meeting this evening. He agreed to take on board the legitimate concerns raised by members, residents and business people. What came across from the meeting today was that nobody is opposed to a better bus service and a balance will have to be struck. People are concerned about various aspects and changes which the proposed bus routes would involve which is understandable. He agreed to examine matters raised by the public and will answer questions/concerns which have been highlighted. It is now proposed to move to the next stage in relation to the proposed green routes which is the detailed design of the routes. He confirmed to the members that the provision

of green routes is an executive function and not a reserved function. Proposals put forward were also as a result of consultation with the Gardai. He assured members that the public's concerns/observations will be listened to and taken on board.

Cllr. Kennedy referred to Part 8 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 which gives the Elected Members the final authority to accept, reject or amend the Manager's proposals. Also the proposed green routes contravenes the City Council's Development Plan as there is no reference in same to green routes / bus routes.

In reply, the City Manager referred to Cllr. Kennedy's comments in relation to Part 8 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as a 'Red Herring'. He again confirmed that it is an executive function under the Road Traffic Act to implement bus corridors / green routes.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Fahy thanked the public for their attendance at the meeting and confirmed that all seventeen councillors are not in favour of the proposed green routes. He thanked members for their comments in this matter.

STANDING ORDERS

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

10. PLANNING PROPOSALS AND DECISIONS

The Meeting noted the list of Planning Proposals under consideration at 14th March, 2008 and Decisions taken from 18th February, 2008 to 14th March, 2008.

Cllr. Gilligan referred to planning application 08/92 – construction of eighteen residential dwellings and associated works at Laurelville, Mill Road, Corbally and pointed out that the Mill Road is very over developed already with a lot of traffic problems and another such development would add to the problem and he asked the Senior Planner to consider this application very carefully prior to making a decision on same.

The Senior Planner agreed that development on the Mill Road is very dense but pointed out that the proposed development would be linked to traffic improvements.

Cllr. Gilligan asked that consideration be given to extending the boardwalk on Clancy Strand.

Cllr. Gilligan fully supported planning application 08/13 for change of use of part of ground floor of Abbey River Court which is located at Sheep Street and Northern Relief Road to use as a Renal Dialysis Clinic and ancillary offices. He also fully supported planning application 08/82 for construction of a Resource and Outreach Centre and associated works at Barrack Street, Limerick.

Cllr. K. Leddin referred to planning application 07/473 for development of Shelburne House, North Circular Road and asked that the Senior Planner ensures that the historic status of this building is protected.

In reply, the Senior Planner stated that Shelburne House is one of the buildings recommended by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for protection and he assured Cllr. K. Leddin of it's protection.

Cllr. K. Leddin referred to planning application 07/452 for development of former GPO/Hanging Gardens Site, Henry Street and enquired about the future of the timber cobbled stones in this property and was assured by the Senior Planner that same will be removed very carefully and reused.

11. AN BORD PLEANALA

The Meeting noted the Decisions taken by An Bord Pleanala from 18th February, 2008 to 14th March, 2008.

12. REPORT FROM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER DATED 13TH MARCH, 2008

Submitted Report from Deputy City Manager dated 13th March, 2008 which was deferred to the April Meeting of City Council :

“The installation of a boardwalk on Clancy Strand between the Treaty Stone and new Riverside Park to facilitate the safe movement of pedestrians”. (C07/7)

13. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF SERVICE DATED 18TH MARCH, 2008

Submitted Report from Director of Service dated 18th March, 2008 which was deferred to the April Meeting of City Council :

“Improvement to the Public Realm including the improvement of footpaths, riverside railings, signage, lighting and boundaries at Bishops Quay, Howleys Quay, Harveys Quay, Poorman's Kilkee, Russells Quay, Lower Shannon Street and Lower Cecil Street” (C07/8)

14. NOTICE OF MOTION

Submitted the following Notice of Motion, due notice of which was given, which was referred to the Environmental Strategic Policy Committee Meeting :

“That Limerick City Council have a full rehabilitation and amenity upgrade of the Westfields Wetlands and measures to conserve and protect it as part of a Special Area of Conservation (“SAC”) as required under the EU Habitat Directive and by Irish Statutory Instruments SI 94/1997 amended by SI233/1998 & SI 378/2005 (European Union (Natural Habitats) Regulations) should be implemented without delay and in consultation with interested stakeholders”.

Signed : Cllr. Michael Hourigan

15. 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 withdraws and deletes the proposals contained in the Draft Green Routes Corridor Selection Report for the provision of Green Routes on

- (a) Ballinacurra Road / O’Connell Avenue;
- (b) Mulgrave Street/Roches Street”

Signed : Cllr. Pat Kennedy

16. 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 comply with the procedural requirements under Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 before it carries out any development in respect of the provision of green routes in any area of the City”.

Signed : Cllr. Pat Kennedy

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Byrne expressed concern that no Sport / Recreation Grant was allocated to St. Francis Boxing Club and asked that it be included in Agenda for next Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee Meeting.

Cllr. K. Leddin stated that she is one of the nominees appointed to the Limerick / Ballybrophy Rail Link Partnership and pointed out that no meeting of such Committee has ever taken place and she asked that the matter be checked out.

THE MEETING THEN ADJOURNED

A TRUE RECORD

**T. MACKEY
CITY MANAGER**

CONFIRMED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2008

MAYOR OF LIMERICK

