

LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL

A Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Monday, 22nd October, 2012 at 4.30 p.m.

The following were in attendance :

IN THE CHAIR: Cllr. G. McLoughlin, Mayor

COUNCILLORS: M. Byrne, G. Fahy, J. Gilligan, M. Hourigan, P. Kennedy, K. Kiely, J. Leddin, K. Leddin, J. Long, D. McCarthy, O. McLoughlin, K. O'Hanlon, M. Quinlivan, D. Scully and T. Shortt

STAFF: Mr. C. Murray, City and County Manager
Mr. P. Dowling, Director of Service
Mr. O. O'Loughlin, Director of Service
Ms. C. Curley, Director of Service
Mr. V. Murray, Acting Director of Service
Mr. P. Murnane, Acting Head of Finance
Mr. K. Reeves, Acting Senior Planner
Mr. J. O'Shaughnessy, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. P. Foley, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. J. Delaney, Senior Executive Officer

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Hurley

The Mayor proposed a vote of congratulations to

- Limerick FC on their promotion to the premier division of Airtricity League
- Kilmallock on winning the County Senior Hurling Championship and Munster on their recent bonus point victory in the Heineken Cup.

He also extended best wishes for a full recovery to Cllr. Hurley who is currently hospitalised and welcomed new Director Tom Enright to his post in Planning and Economic Development

On the proposition of Cllr. Quinlivan seconded by Gilligan it was agreed that Item 12 will be taken for discussion at this point.

12. NOTICE OF MOTION

Submitted the following Notice of Motion, due notice of which was given :

“Home Help and Home Care Workers employed by the H.S.E. provide a vital service to elderly people and people with disabilities in our communities. We call on this Council to support the S.I.P.T.U. Time to Care Campaign which opposes further reductions to the Home Help Service in Limerick. We call on the H.S.E. and the Minister for Health to protect both workers and clients who need this service from further cuts. We call on the H.S.E. and the Minister for Health to cease the practice of cutting home help hours due to financial considerations only and not the needs of the clients or the integral role home care workers play in the H.S.E.”

Signed : Cllr. Maurice Quinlivan

Cllr.Quinlivan formally proposed the motion and welcomed the Home Help workers present at the meeting. He said the Government is cutting back on home help funding but it is an efficient and reliable service that keeps people in their homes. It is far from being a burden on the state and saves the taxpayer millions. He said it was the policy of the current Government to put these services out to tender to private companies for profit.

Cllr.Gilligan seconded the motion. He said this is not a political issue but a social one. He said that this was such an important issue that it deserved cross party support.

Cllr.Long supported Cllr.Quinlivan's motion identifying those that provide HomeHelp as the unsung heroes of Irish society.

Cllr. Joe Leddin welcomed the Home Help and Union Representatives to the meeting. He said that while we must make savings and cost reductions, we must not target those on the front line of public service provision.

Cllr.Byrne supported the notice of motion and praised the work of those who provide home help.

Cllr.Scully said he did not agree that cuts should be made to Home Help. The Council does not have the power to change recent decisions but it can support a change to the policy. He said Home Help saves the state money ,improves lives and it's security is an important moral issue.

Cllr. Orla McLoughlin also supported the motion requesting the cessation of the reductions in Home Help services. She asked in particular for the support of Government Ministers in Limerick.

Cllr.Hourigan welcomed all present to the meeting and thanked them for demonstrating their solidarity with one another. He also said that he would be asking the Ministers in Government for their support on this issue.

Cllr.Shortt said the cuts to Home Help were a result of the culture of greed that affected this country in the recent past. He said there were other options available to Government to raise money instead of cutting services to the most vulnerable in our society.

Cllr. Fahy said that Home Help was a service that had to be considered in the context of an individual family's particular needs. He said that the elderly, most affected by these cuts, were those who had worked so hard over a long number of years for the benefit of this country and its citizens.

Cllr.Kathleen Leddin wished to congratulate those who were present to support the Home Help service. She said that we needed to do what we can as a Council to support the case for Home Help.

Cllr.Kennedy proposed that the Mayor and members of the Council should request a meeting with the relevant Minister to advance the contents of the motion.

Cllr.McCarthy paid tribute to those who provide Home Help. He said that society would be judged by the way it treats the most vulnerable.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. McLoughlin supported the motion. He said that those councillors who were members of the HSE Forum should bring similar motions to that Forum. He also referred to the work that could be done with with the Government Ministers from Limerick on the issue.

On the proposition of Cllr.Quinlivan seconded by Cllr. Gilligan the motion was unanimously agreed as submitted.

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, 2012, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

2. MINUTES

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

“That the Minutes of Adjourned Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 1st October, 2012, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, ECONOMIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8TH OCTOBER, 2012

The Chairman's Report, Economic Policy Development and Future Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 8th October, 2012, was noted.

Cllr.Scully advised that the recent proposals Putting People First effectively announced a single metropolitan area for Limerick.

Cllr. J.Leddin said the proposals to eliminate planning levies in the Regeneration areas was most welcome. Cllr. Leddin requested a meeting with Bus Eireann in relation to the recent changes to the bus routes.

Cllr.J. Leddin requested that the consultants currently working on the City Centre Plan would engage directly with the Elected Members. He said the dissolution of Shannon Development would leave a gap which other Agencies must fill.

Cllr. Gilligan did not want the same mistake on the Northern Distributor Road as has been made with the Southern Ring Road in terms of tolling.

Cllr.Shortt supported the reduction in development levies and said that the report sent a positive message for Limerick.

A number of councillors welcomed the new Director, Mr.Enright and wished him well.

Cllr.Fahy requested an update on the housing development in Marian Drive.

Cllr.Kathleen Leddin welcomed the reduction in development levies. She also enquired about the unfinished development on the North Circular Road. She congratulated Irish Rail on the reduction in charges between Limerick and Dublin/Cork

Cllr. Quinlivan requested promotion of the Limerick - Galway route. He also requested an update on unfinished housing estates.

Mr. Enright thanked the members for their good wishes. He said it is hoped to have a meeting shortly with the Consultants working on the City Centre Report once a date is finalised with the Mayor and Cathaoirleach.

The Acting Senior Planner said, in relation to Marian Drive, that they have been in contact with the Receiver and the Health and Safety Authority but not to discuss the purchase of the property.

In relation to the development on the North Circular Road, he said it was their understanding that the sale has fallen through. There is ongoing enforcement action on that development.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS, CULTURAL AND SPORTING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8TH OCTOBER, 2012.

The Chairman's Report, Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 8th October, 2012, was noted.

The Chairman gave a presentation on the contents of the report.

Cllr.Long referred to the decision to postpone the Museum moving to Patrick Street. The Council and the Strategic Policy Committee, he said, supported the proposal of the Director and the Manager at the time. Cllr.Long said that he had reservations initially about the move but he had serious concerns now that the proposal had been overturned without reasonable explanation.

He asked why was the Jim Kemmy Museum located in Isatbraq Hall when funds had been available for relocation to Patrick Street.

Cllr. Quinlivan asked why they had not been told of the decision to put the proposal on hold.

Cllr.Gilligan said he was disappointed that the proposal had not gone ahead. He would have preferred if it had stayed on the Island at the time but did not oppose the move for strategic reasons.

He said that the Wild Geese was of huge significant historical interest around Europe and also from a tourism point of view. He proposed asking Matt Potter to carry out a study on the Wild Geese.

Cllr. Scully said he thought it was wrong to locate the Museum on the Opera Centre site but the recent decision to move it to Istabraq Hall means that the Museum is in a far less appropriate place.

The Director of Service said that the cost of adapting the bank building for the Museum was excessive for what would ultimately be a temporary location. He said that he also felt that the proposal was premature pending the outcome of consultants report on the City Centre.

He apologised for the lack of notification. He said it's current location was only temporary while the Council actively explore other possibilities.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. McLoughlin requested patience from the Councillors on this issue as the Council move forward with significant change at this time.

Cllr. Long said he does not accept the explanation given.

A number of members welcomed the return of The Special Olympics to the City.

Cllr. Kathleen Leddin said the members should be aware that World Rowing Coaches Conference was being held in Limerick this month and was another significant boost to the City. She also said that the medieval section of Limerick should be developed with the Museum.,

Cllr.Shortt drew attention to the Belltable's Unhinged Festival currently ongoing in the City and sought support in terms of attendance.

Submitted the following Recommendation from the Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 8th October, 2012, which was adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Scully :

GRANTS UNDER THE ARTS ACT

| Organisation/Individual | Amount recommended |
|---|---------------------------|
| Orchard Theatre Company | 500 |
| Elemental Arts & Culture Festival | 700 |
| Bottom Dog Theatre Company | 500 |
| Open House Limerick | 500 |
| Family Christmas Fair – The Hunt Museum | 200 |
| CBS Pipe Band | 400 |
| Voices of Limerick | 400 |
| Limerick Art Society | 350 |
| Unfringed Festival of Theatre | 550 |
| Urban Tree Project | 300 |
| St. Johns Brass & Reed Band | 300 |
| Isabela Oberlander | 300 |
| Adapt House (Drama Workshops) | 200 |
| Limerick Writers Centre | 350 |
| Total | 5550 |

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Submitted list of tenders opened in respect of the following :

- Limerick Riverside Improvement Strategy – City Quays, Limerick;
- Limerick City Council Traffic Control Equipment, Maintenance and General Works;
- Limerick Southern Green Route – Ballinacurra Creek to Punches Cross Quality Bus Corridor;
- Limerick Walking and Cycling Facilities 2012;

Submitted invitation from the Royal British legion (Republic of Ireland) to attend the Limerick Remembrance Services 2012. It was unanimously agreed to attend and to robe for the ceremonies.

Cllr. Kennedy expressed reservations regarding the current tender opening procedure. He proposed the reintroduction of a tenders committee of the full Council. Cllr. Hourigan said he was not in favour of additional meetings of Council as there were already more than enough meetings to attend throughout the year.

The Manager assured the members that the current tender opening procedure was compliant with all requirements and the assessment of tenders was in accordance with procurement standards.

6. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

It was proposed by Cllr. Hourigan , seconded by Cllr. Scully and unanimously agreed to approve Disposal of Property as follows in accordance with Notices already circulated under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 :

- (a) Disposal of land (Ground Rent) consisting of an area comprising approximately 0.0273 hectares or thereabouts statute measure known as 8, Shelbourne Road in the City of Limerick and edged red on Drawing No. AG3039 to Mary Finucane or her nominees.
- (b) Disposal of lands (Ground Rent) consisting of an area comprising approximately 0.0348 hectares or thereabouts statute measure situate at 61, Mayorstone Park in the City of Limerick and shown edged red on Drawing No. AG3031 to Jean Conacher or her nominees.

7. 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 :

Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises entitled 'Debt Settlement'
Held in The Manor West Hotel, Killarney Road, Tralee, Co. Kerry
2nd - 3rd November, 2012
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €229.49
Conference Fee : €150.00

Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises entitled 'Education for Work Initiatives'
Held in The Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo
9th - 10th November, 2012
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €318.10
Conference Fee : €150.00

Association of Irish Regions Seminar entitled 'Ireland's Regions for Business – 2020'
Held in Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny
16th November, 2012
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €255.48
Conference Fee : €100.00

Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises entitled 'Legal Services Regulation Bill 2011'
Held in The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway
16th - 17th November, 2012
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €225.95
Conference Fee : €150.00

Conference organised by TGR Seminars entitled 'LEADER Funding and the Councillor'
Held in Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare
16th - 18th November, 2012
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €236.88
Conference Fee : €145.00

Seminar organised by Ace Training entitled 'Chambers of Commerce Building Business'
Held in The Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork
16th - 18th November, 2012
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €425.91
Conference Fee : €100.00

Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises entitled 'Environmental Implications of Harvesting Wind Energy'
Held in The Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo
23rd - 24th November, 2012
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €318.10
Conference Fee : €150.00

8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Submitted Financial Statement for the month of September, 2012 which was adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Scully

9. BORROWING BY WAY OF OVERDRAFT

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Hourigan and unanimously agreed to authorise the borrowing by way of Overdraft for the year ended 31st December, 2013.

10. PLANNING PROPOSALS AND DECISIONS

The Meeting noted the list of Planning Proposals under consideration at 12th October, 2012 and Decisions taken from 17th September, 2012 to 12th October, 2012.

Cllr. Kennedy said that members should be aware that there are very strong powers available to the City Council and the Courts in relation to Enforcement under existing Planning legislation.

Cllr. Scully expressed his grave reservations regarding a take away proposal for the Spring Field development on Old Singland Road. He said it would lead to enhanced litter and anti social behaviour.

In reply to Members, the Acting Senior Planner stated that there would be consultation on the remediation of the Gas Works site.

In reply to Cllr. Hourigan, the Acting Senior Planner stated that a licencing framework existed in relation to concerts at Croke Park

11. AN BORD PLEANALA

The Meeting noted the Decisions taken by An Bord Pleanala from 17th September, 2012 to 12th October, 2012.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Hourigan proposed free parking in the City Centre for specified periods leading up to Christmas. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Byrne.

Cllr. Hourigan requested that the word City be included in the new name of the amalgamated Council.

Cllr. Long proposed a Civic Reception in the very near future for the Bothar organisation. This was seconded by Cllr. Kennedy and agreed.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. McLoughlin advised that a suitable date for the Bothar Civic Reception would be considered.

Cllr Kennedy suggested that a meeting of the Council be held to discuss the Government's 'Putting People First' document . This was seconded by Cllr. Scully. It was agreed to hold an Information Briefing for all Councillors on this matter.

The Director of Service (Travel and Transportation) then read a proposal as follows regarding free parking for a specified period up to Christmas. This proposal, he said, had been costed and sufficient savings had been achieved to date to enable this proposal to proceed :

' That there would be free parking in the retail core area of the City Centre from 2pm every day commencing Saturday December the 8th until December 31st

This was formally proposed by Cllr. Hourigan, seconded by Cllr. Gilligan and unanimously agreed.

THE MEETING THEN CONCLUDED

A TRUE RECORD

CONFIRMED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2012.

MAYOR OF LIMERICK