

LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL

A Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2012 at 4.00 p.m.

The following were in attendance :

**IN THE CHAIR :** Cllr. J. Long, Mayor

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

**STAFF :** Mr. K. Lehane, City Manager  
Ms. C. Curley, Director of Service  
Mr. P. Dowling, Director of Service  
Mr. O. O'Loughlin, Director of Service  
Mr. V. Murray, Acting Director of Service  
Mr. G. Dillon, 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  
Ms. E. Creamer, Staff Officer

**APOLOGIES :** Cllr. K. Kiely

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**1. MINUTES**

On the proposition of Cllr. Scully, seconded by Cllr. Fahy, it was unanimously agreed :

"That the Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2012, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed".

Cllr. Quinlivan stated that under Item No. 5 of the Minutes, he referred to the issue regarding the Irish Water Authority and not Cllr. Gilligan as referred to in the Minutes and he asked that the Minutes be amended accordingly.

In reply to Cllr. J. Leddin, the Director of Service (Environment & Planning) stated that the Recommendation regarding Shannon Airport was forwarded to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, following discussion with His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Long. She agreed to furnish Cllr. J. Leddin with a copy of such letter.

It was agreed to hold a Special Meeting of the City Council on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2012 at 4.30 p.m. to consider any recommendations that may be made by Limerick City Council in respect of the future of Shannon Airport.

## **2. MINUTES**

On the proposition of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Scully, it was unanimously agreed :

“That the Minutes of Special Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2012, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

## **3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 2ND APRIL, 2012.**

The Chairman's Report, Environmental Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2012, was noted.

Submitted the following Recommendation from the Environmental Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2012, which was adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Shortt, seconded by Cllr. Quinlivan :

“That Limerick City Council, in the interests of improving and encouraging navigation and boating for sporting, recreational and commercial purposes on the Shannon and Abbey Rivers, removes the derelict Fisheries Weir from the Shannon at Thomondgate and puts an effective programme of maintenance in place to cut back overhanging trees and bushes that narrow the channel and obstruct access to the riverbank along the Abbey River and along the bank of the Shannon between the Shannon Bridge and Barrington's Pier”.

Cllr. K. Leddin requested that Arthurs Quay be added to the requirement to keep dogs on leads in the Bye Laws in relation to Dog Litter and Dog Control in Parks.

Cllr. Shortt pointed out that responsibility for the Weir was transferred to the Regeneration Agency and it featured in the Regeneration Master Plan. Brendan Kenny of Regeneration held a meeting with people from the Boat Clubs at which it was unanimously agreed to remove the Weir and open up the river. He pointed out that there was a lot of consultation prior to the submission of the above Notice of Motion and added that the Boat Clubs unanimously support this Notice of Motion also. He added that the removal of the Weir will encourage and extend the development of the river area.

Cllr. Hourigan complimented Limerick City Council on the riverside walk from Clonmacken along the river bank. However, he expressed concern at the large amount of dog fouling taking place.

Cllr. Byrne commended the Environment Department on the new signs for dog fouling on litter bins.

Cllr. J. Leddin welcomed the new signs for dog litter and congratulated all involved on the Canal walk. He asked that the City Council contact their counterparts in the County Council and ask them to resurface the section of the walkway which is in their area and which would provide a walkway all the way from the city to the University of Limerick. He welcomed the follow up competition to the 2011 Community Challenge adding that a very positive response was received from communities and residents.

The Director of Service (Environment and Planning) stated that the Office of Public Works have responsibility for the canal. A meeting was held recently with Waterways Ireland and it was agreed they would do a clean up of the canal and would work with Limerick City Council in relation to improving the water flow. She agreed to draw up Bye Laws in relation to dog litter but added that dog litter is an owner's responsibility at the end of the day. She stated that at last month's Council

Meeting Bye Laws were approved to regularise the collection of commercial refuse. She agreed to contact Limerick County Council about extending the walkway out to the University. She pointed out that the follow up competition to the 2011 Community Challenge is financed by the J. P. McManus Charitable Foundation Trust adding that there are a number of categories but will advise Members further in due course.

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS, CULTURAL AND SPORTING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10TH APRIL, 2012.**

The Chairman's Report, Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2012, was noted.

Submitted the following Recommendation from the Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2012, which was adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Hourigan, seconded by Cllr. Byrne :

“That Limerick City Council explores the possibility of acquiring the former Jesuit Church at the Crescent which would serve as an important future asset for the City. It's usage could include a City Library or other civic purposes”.

Cllr. Byrne stated that there is a lot of very worthwhile culture and art projects going on in Limerick City which should be co-ordinated and suggested that a Committee be set up to market Limerick as a city of Sport, Culture and Art and to look at accessing funding.

Cllr. Scully pointed out that the Belltable is one of the most important cultural centres in the city, however, the level of noise pollution going on in a business at the rear of the Belltable in the evening is having a negative impact on performances taking place in the Belltable and requested a swift resolution to the problem.

Cllr. G. McLoughlin commended His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Long and all involved in the organisation of the conferring of the Freedom of the City on Paul O'Connell yesterday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

Cllr. Fahy added that Paul O'Connell is a great ambassador for Limerick and we are very fortunate to have so many sporting clubs in the city and it is important that the City Council play it's part in encouraging youth to participate in sport.

Cllr. O. McLoughlin joined with Cllr. G. McLoughlin in commending all involved in the conferring ceremony.

Cllr. J. Leddin wished to place on record his appreciation to the Sports Partnership Co-Ordinators for their help with completing application forms to access funding. Consideration should be given to incorporating a multi use facility, including a swimming pool, for the southside of the city in the regeneration plans for the area. There is significant land capacity and huge potential at St. Endas. He suggested that as the city has a lot of cultural attributes, consideration should be given to applying for the title of 'City of Culture'. He also wished to place on record his appreciation to the staff of the IT Department for their contribution to the DIEGO Project. A lot of Limerick City Council's Services are now available on line and the website is being updated continuously.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Long informed Members that the Mayor's Office received many calls of congratulations in relation to the Conferring Ceremony that was held yesterday and a lot of coverage was received in both the local and national media and he paid tribute to all involved in the

organisation of the event.

In reply, the Director of Service (Community and Enterprise) stated that art and culture in the city has been seriously looked at and it is hoped that it will come to fruition before the end of the year. He informed Members that he was recently appointed onto the Board of the Belltable and assured them that all options will be explored to resolve the noise issue in the vicinity of the Belltable. He informed the Members that Limerick City Council is paying the cost for the Workshops in relation to the Sports Capital Fund. He confirmed that the junior teaching facility at Rathbane Golf Course is now completed and will be officially opened in June. He agreed with Members that St. Endas and Regeneration should discuss the possible development of the site. The DIEGO Project is an important initiative. He informed Members that the Great Limerick Run is taking place on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 and invited everybody to participate in same.

**IT WAS AGREED TO RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM MR. PATRICK CONROY, VALUATION OFFICE, ON THE REVALUATION OF LIMERICK CITY AREA (COMMERCIAL RATES)**

Mr. Patrick Conroy, Valuation Office, then made presentation on the revaluation of Limerick City Area.

**IT WAS AGREED TO RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM CONNECT IRELAND.**

Mr. Alan Gallagher, Connect Ireland then made presentation.

It was agreed that details of proposal by Connect Ireland be put up on Limerick City Council website.

**STANDING ORDERS**

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

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

Submitted list of tenders opened in respect of the following :

Limerick City Water Conservation Project – Water Mains Rehabilitation Works Package 1.

Submitted letter of acknowledgement from the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in respect of recent letter in connection with Limerick City Council's Resolution about the €100.00 charge being replaced with a progressive tax in 2013.

Submitted letter of acknowledgement from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills in respect of Limerick City Council's Resolution regarding the V.E.C. Headquarters remaining within the core city centre area.

Submitted letter from the Houses of the Oireachtas acknowledging receipt of Limerick City Council's correspondence objecting to the proposal by Bord na Mona to construct a reservoir at Garrinahinch, Co. Laois and Co. Offaly and abstract water to cater for the needs of the greater Dublin Area. It stated that the Committee noted Limerick City Council's correspondence and that it would take the objection of Limerick City Council into consideration in preparing it's forthcoming Report on Water Provision. The Committee agreed to notify Limerick City Council of it's decision once made.

Submitted letter of acknowledgement from the Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport acknowledging receipt of Limerick City Council's Resolution in relation to Shannon Airport and stating that the matter is receiving attention and a further reply would issue in due course.

## **6. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY**

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Leddin, seconded by Cllr. Shortt 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) Amendment to Section 183 Notice of Disposal of Property relating to St. Munchin's Family Resource Centre passed by Resolution at City Council Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2006.

## **7. PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS AT CONFERENCES**

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

Limerick City & County Sports Partnerships April Seminar Series  
Held in The Pavilion, University of Limerick  
18<sup>th</sup> April, 2012.

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : -  
Conference Fee Nil

Conference organised by Institute for the Study of Knowledge in Society, University of Limerick entitled 'Transforming Local Government and Local Democracy in Ireland'  
Held in The Absolute Hotel, Sir Harry's Mall, Limerick.  
19<sup>th</sup> April, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : -  
Conference Fee : Nil

Listowel Conference 2012 entitled 'The Economic Potential of Arts and Cultural Tourism'  
Held in St. John's Theatre & Arts Centre, Listowel, Co. Kerry  
26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €197.60  
Conference Fee : €150.00

Conference entitled 'The Agri-Food Sector in the Cork Region: Our Commitment'  
Held in The Trident Hotel, Kinsale, Co. Cork  
27<sup>th</sup> April, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €257.85  
Conference Fee : € 50.00

The Border, Midland & Western Regional Assembly Annual Conference 2012  
Held in The TF Royal Hotel, Castlebar, Co. Mayo  
30<sup>th</sup> April, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €316.92  
Conference Fee : Nil

Conference organised by The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland entitled 'Creating the right environment for ISO 50001 to thrive'  
Held in Mansion House, Dawson Street, Dublin 2.  
4<sup>th</sup> May, 2012  
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €240.54  
Conference Fee : €200.00

Conference organised by Esperanza Enterprises entitled 'Non payment of Local Government charges and fines and consequences'  
Held in The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway.  
4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2012  
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €225.95  
Conference Fee : €150.00

Conference organised by Kadenza Consultancies entitled 'Heroin & cocaine – Changing Trends in Drug and Alcohol Abuse'  
Held in Cahir House Hotel, Cahir, Co. Tipperary  
4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2012.  
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €291.23  
Conference Fee : €145.00

2012 Mayors Conference of European City Against Drugs  
Held in The Malton Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry  
9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2012  
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €350.30  
Conference Fee : € 50.00

Annual Conference of the Association of County and City Councils  
Held in The Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny  
10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2012  
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €255.48  
Conference Fee : €125.00

Community Tourism Conference organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'Driving local sustainable tourism in a stagnant global economy'  
Held in The Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork  
11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2012  
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €425.91  
Conference Fee : €100.00

Sligo Field Club 4<sup>th</sup> Summer Conference 'Celebrating Sligo – 400 Years of the Borough'  
Held in The Glasshouse Hotel, Sligo  
11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2012  
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €484.98  
Conference Fee : € 60.00

Conference entitled 'Living Landscape, maximising our Outdoor Resources'  
Held in Clifden Station House Hotel, Clifden, Co. Galway  
17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2012  
Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €316.92  
Conference Fee : €125.00

Training / Development Workshop for Councillors organised by TGR Seminars entitled 'A Guide to Getting the Right Work Done'

Held in The Kilmurry Lodge Hotel, Dublin Road, Castletroy, Limerick.

18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : -

Conference Fee : €145.00

Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly Annual Conference entitled 'The Jobs Challenge – the Local and Regional Response'

Held in The Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny

24<sup>th</sup> May, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €255.48

Conference Fee : Nil

Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises entitled 'Reducing Ireland's dependency on fossil fuels'

Held in The Manor West Hotel, Killarney Road, Tralee, Co. Kerry

25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €229.49

Conference Fee : €150.00

Conference organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'West Cork Fusion'

Held in The Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork.

25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €425.91

Conference Fee : €100.00

Seminar organised by TGR Seminars entitled 'A blueprint for Councillors to access funding for upgrading sports facilities in communities across Ireland'

Held in The Kilmurry Lodge Hotel, Dublin Road, Castletroy, Limerick.

8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2012

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : -

Conference Fee : €145.00

## **8. DRAWDOWN OF A LOAN FROM THE HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY TO FUND THE REGENERATION PROGRAMME**

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Leddin, seconded by Cllr. D. Scully and unanimously agreed to approve the drawdown of a loan from the Housing Finance Agency to fund the Regeneration Programme.

## **9. FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

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

## **10. PAYMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS 2012**

It was proposed by Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Scully and unanimously agreed to approve the Environmental Improvement Grants 2012 as per list submitted to meeting.

**HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, CLLR. LONG STATED THAT HE HAD TO LEAVE THE MEETING AT THIS STAGE DUE TO ANOTHER ENGAGEMENT AND CLLR. SCULLY TOOK THE CHAIR.**

**11. VARIATION TO LIMERICK CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010 – 2016 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANAGER'S REPORT (VARIATION2) DATED 16TH APRIL, 2012**

The Acting Senior Planner gave a presentation on the variation to the Limerick City Development Plan 2010 – 2016 in accordance with the Manager's Report (Variation 2) dated 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2012.

Cllr. Quinlivan pointed out that the census shows that there has been a drop in the population of the city, however, the report is going on statistics which are incorrect. He said he appreciated that there are constraints and that these are the statistics which Limerick City Council have been given to work with.

Cllr. Gilligan agreed with Cllr. Quinlivan. The statistics include the provision for three primary schools and one large secondary school adding that the projections are incorrect and therefore it is not possible to work with same. Changes have occurred and it is therefore necessary to deal with reality when compiling statistics.

**STANDING ORDERS**

Standing Orders were suspended for ten minutes on the proposition of Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Byrne.

Cllr. Kennedy pointed out that in the Report prepared by Minogue and Associates there is no reference to the new 2011 Regulations. He stated that the 2004 Regulations have been superceded by the 2011 Regulations. He enquired why the fifth criteria was not put into the report. The Manager's Report refers to the Screening Report, however, Section 14(a)(2) does not refer to Variations of Development Plans at all, it refers to Local Area Plans. He stated that there is no Schedule 2 even though it is referred to in the Report, it should be schedule 2(a). He referred to the letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2012 from the Environmental Protection Agency to Limerick City Council.

In reply, the Acting Senior Planner stated that Limerick City Council was obliged to carry out this variation based on the projections given by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The variation is largely a revised presentation of the existing data that is already there. He stated that the variation is being carried out in accordance with Article 13 of the Act. He pointed out that Doherty & Associates were the Consultants that prepared the Strategic Environment Assessment and Appropriate Assessment of the 2010 Development Plan and added that these consultants are recognised as suitably qualified within their field to carry out such studies.

He stated that the documents circulated included all the relevant information as required by the Planning and Development Act 2010 and additional Regulations made by the Minister. The Variation itself is on foot of the requirements of the 2010 Planning Act and he stated that all procedures were carried out correctly.

Cllr. Kennedy stated that a fresh Strategic Environmental Assessment should be carried out and he wished to be recorded as opposing this variation to the Limerick City Development Plan 2010 – 2016.

Cllr. Scully pointed out that this matter has been considered in great detail.



## **STANDING ORDERS**

Standing Orders were suspended for ten minutes on the proposition of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Fahy.

It was proposed by Cllr. Byrne and seconded by Cllr. McCarthy to approve the variation to the Limerick City Development Plan 2010 – 2016 in accordance with the Manager's Report (Variation 2) dated 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2012.

## **12. PLANNING PROPOSALS AND DECISION**

The Meeting noted the list of Planning Proposals under consideration at 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2012 and Decisions taken from 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 to 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2012.

At the request of Members it was agreed that a Ward Meeting be held to discuss planning application ref. no. P.12/55 for the development consisting of a new split level Youth Club Centre, providing 1149 metres square of mixed use accommodation as follows – reception area, split level activity/games hall, multipurpose hall with raised stage and backstage areas, self service kitchen facility. Office accommodation, meeting rooms, board room, toilets, showers, store rooms, bicycle storage area, new security fencing to adjacent garden/allotment area, open green space to front of building, on site car parking and all associated site works at Knockalisheen Road/Ballynanty Road, Ballynanty, Limerick city, adjacent to Thomond Park. It was also agreed that a meeting be then organised with all members to discuss the application.

## **STANDING ORDERS**

Standing Orders were suspended for ten minutes on the proposition of Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Fahy.

## **13. NOTICE OF MOTION**

Submitted the following Notice of Motion, due notice of which was given, which was adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Quinlivan, seconded by Cllr. Gilligan :

“That Limerick City Council should establish a Working Group, tasked with the responsibility of organising and co-ordinating the annual calendar of commemorations and whatever events and ceremonies might be appropriate, to mark the centenaries of key historical events of local, national and international significance occurring during the next decade”.

Signed : Cllr. Tom Shortt

## **14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The City Manager informed Members that a letter was received from the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht stating that in May 2008, the Government decided to inaugurate an Annual National Famine Commemoration Day in memory of all those who died and emigrated during the Great Famine. On foot of this a National Famine Commemoration Committee was established to consider the most appropriate arrangements for the commemoration. Last year's National Famine Commemoration was held in Clones, Co. Monaghan. The Committee has agreed that the 2012 National Famine Commemoration Day will take place in Drogheda, Co. Louth on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> May in the presence of An Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny, T.D. Minister Deenihan invited everyone to observe a minute of silent reflection on Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 in memory of all those who suffered loss during the Great Famine.

**THE MEETING THEN CONCLUDED**

**A TRUE RECORD**

**K. LEHANE  
CITY MANAGER**

**CONFIRMED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_ 2012.**

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**MAYOR OF LIMERICK**