

LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL

A Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Monday, 25th February, 2013 at 4.00 p.m.

The following were in attendance :

IN THE CHAIR : Cllr. G. McLoughlin, Mayor

COUNCILLORS : M. Byrne, G. Fahy, J. Gilligan, M. Hourigan, C. Hurley, 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
Ms. C. Curley, Director of Service
Mr. K. Lehane, Director of Service
Ms. J. Cotter-Coughlan, Director of Service
Mr. P. Crowe, Director of Service
Mr. T. Enright, Director of Service
Mr. P. Murnane, Acting Head of Finance
Mr. K. Reeves, Senior Executive Planner
Mr. E. Griffin, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. N. Fahy, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. P. Foley, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. E. Creamer, Staff Officer

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. McLoughlin welcomed Ms. Mary Dundon and students from the University of Limerick to the meeting.

Prior to the business proper of the meeting, His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. McLoughlin proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the following :

Anne Cahill, Regeneration Office, on the death of her father, Mr. John Frost.
Pat Doran, Moyross Housing Maintenance Depot, on the death of his son, Paul.
Aileen McMahon, Housing Department, on the death of her father, Kevin.

All Members wished to be associated with the votes of sympathy.

The City Manager, on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff, also wished to be associated with the votes of sympathy.

1. MINUTES

On the proposition of Cllr. Hourigan, seconded by Cllr. Byrne, it was unanimously agreed :

“That the Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 28th January, 2013, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

Cllr. Quinlivan referred to the reference in the minutes to the old derelict cottage in the grounds of Mount St. Lawrence Graveyard and to his suggestion for a crematorium there. He said he was referring to the old derelict church there not the derelict cottage and asked that the minutes be amended accordingly.

He also referred to the reference under Item No. 4 to Fianna Fail Senator Mark McClarry and said this should have read Senator Marc MacSharry and asked that the minutes be amended accordingly.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, CULTURAL AND SPORTING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2013.

The Chairman's Report, Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 4th February, 2013, was noted.

Cllr. Scully referred to the proposed liquidation of the Belltable Arts Centre Limited and expressed concern that the city may not have an arts centre or a museum in the run in or during the Year of Culture.

Cllr. Long acknowledged that a group of officials is working on a proposal for a new museum but pointed out that it's present location in Istabraq Hall is not adequate or suitable.

Cllr. J. Leddin enquired about progress on the City of Culture Programme, the proposed structures for it's implementation and the staff resources required. He complimented the work that is being done on the St. Patrick's Festival in Limerick.

Cllr. Byrne stated that there are numerous voluntary groups interested in becoming involved in the City of Culture Programme and stated that these groups should be encouraged to participate and contribute to the Programme. She also asked for an update on the Rathbane Golf Course.

A number of Councillors wished to see a greater role for Members of the City Council in delivering the City of Culture Programme.

In reply, the Director of Service (Culture and Sport) confirmed that the Council Officials were working hard to get the issues on the Belltable Arts Centre resolved as quickly as possible and agreed to keep the Members updated on same. He confirmed that the position of Artistic Director for the Year of Culture will be filled shortly. He added that the Council is proposing to recruit a number of staff to work on the City of Culture Programme from within the existing staff compliment.

He stated that nine pillar groups have been identified for consultation and participation in the Year of Culture representing youth, amateur arts, venues and festivals, international communities, sports, community groups and so on. He advised that the Council has set aside a budget of €235,000 for the City of Culture in 2013 and a separate marketing fund of €250,000 can also be accessed.

The Director stated that a target is to have a stongly outlined programme for the year by June 2013. A principle of the Year of Culture is that it will be inclusive and that every facility will be available for people to be involved in as much as possible. He confirmed that this year's St. Patrick's Festival will contain a new artistic feature to improve the spectacle and entertainment of the Parade as over seventy thousand people are expected to attend. The International Band Championship will be held on Monday, 18th March and over twenty bands will be participating, with seven from the United States and one from Germany.

The Director stated that a workshop would be convened for the Members of the Council on the Year of Culture, on agreement with the Chair of the Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee. He stated that the Kate O'Brien Weekend, just past, had been a great success and complimented the Committee and the City Councils' Arts Officer, Ms. Sheila Deegan, for the work and success of same.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 2013.

The Chairman's Report, Environmental Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 11th February, 2013, was noted.

Cllr. Byrne voiced her concern regarding dog littering throughout the city and stressed the necessity to tackle this problem. She pointed out that some of the bins throughout the city are not emptied during the weekend and asked that this be looked at.

Cllr. Scully complimented all involved especially Ms. Sinead McDonnell on the 'Going for Gold' Programme and supported Cllr. Byrne regarding dog littering and suggested that a local initiative be encouraged to deal with this problem. He expressed concern at graffiti on public structures throughout the city and referred specifically to the wall in Childers Road fronting onto Norwood Park. He referred to the issue of lack of reinstatement/cleanup following tree pruning in Ballysimon and requested that the area be examined.

Cllr. J. Leddin asked for clarification regarding the opening times of the parks in the city and asked for a progress report on the redevelopment of Longpavement site. He asked that the signs coming into the city be cleaned and that new signs for City of Culture be erected on all the approach roads into the city. He referred to the IBAL report regarding the litter/neglect in the basements of properties in Georgian Limerick which is mainly due to absentee landlords and asked that the City Council look at resolving this problem. He again voiced his concern regarding derelict sites throughout the city and asked that the City Council use its powers to deal with these sites. He complimented all involved in the Tidy Towns Competition.

Cllr. Hourigan complimented the Parks Department on the planting of flowers at the roundabouts and also the Environment Dept, in particular Sinead McDonnell, on the 'Going for Gold Programme' and all other initiatives which improve the quality of life for people. He asked for more frequency in the emptying of dog littering bins and expressed concern that waste collection trucks, who are suppose to operate between 6.00 a.m. and 8.00 a.m., are operating outside these hours which results in the hold up of traffic. He referred to the derelict sites audit recently carried out to establish ownership of sites and asked for an update on same. He also asked for an update on the Allotment Scheme.

Cllr. McCarthy congratulated all involved on the improvements to roundabout in Corbally. He complimented all involved on the success of the recent Tidy Towns Seminar especially the speakers from Louth and Killarney. He expressed concern regarding plot of land near Corbally Roundabout and asked that it be looked at. He queried the destination of slaughtered horses impounded in Limerick. He referred to the severity of the pruning of trees in O'Connell Avenue and asked that such pruning be scaled back in future.

Cllr. Shortt, supported by Cllr. Quinlivan, enquired about the opening up of Longpavement site to the public. He also spoke at length on the need for restorative justice for young graffiti offenders.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. McLoughlin requested that he be advised of the date for inhouse meeting on horse control.

In response, the Director of Service (Environment) advised of ongoing anti dog littering campaign and anti graffetti initiatives being deployed by the Council. She advised that parks opening hours are staggered according to daylight hours and the various times are displayed in the parks. She referred to agreement with waste collectors re collection time and indicated that this matter would be followed up. She advised that the land at Corbally Roundabout was in fact a wild flower meadow and stated that consideration would be given to erecting a sign to advise the public of this. She agreed to advise all Members of the date of the discussion meeting on horse control once agreed with the Chair of the Environmental Strategic Policy Committee.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Submitted list of tenders opened in respect of the following :

- Establishment of Framework Agreement for Design Team Services and Small Capital Works Projects – Development at Sheep Street / Athlunkard Street, King's Island, Limerick;

Circulated newsletter for the Shannon Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study – noted.

5. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

It was proposed by Cllr. Hourigan, seconded by Cllr. Byrne 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 freehold interest held by Limerick City Council in the property at 19, Lilac Court, Keyes Park, Limerick to Mary McNamara in consideration of the transfer of the freehold interest in her property at 1, Aster Court, Keyes Park, Limerick to Limerick City Council.
- (b) Disposal of freehold interest held by Limerick City Council in the property at 21, Lilac Court, Keyes Park, Limerick to Michael and Anne Maher in consideration of the transfer of the freehold interest in their property at 27, Palm Court, Keyes Park, Limerick to Limerick City Council.

6. PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS AT CONFERENCES

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

Mid West Regional Authority Annual Conference entitled 'Economic Recovery - Progress in the Regions'

Held in Horse and Jockey Hotel, Thurles, Co. Tipperary

28th February - 1st March, 2013

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €201.14

Conference Fee : €100.00

Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises

Entitled 'Action Plan for Jobs'

Held in The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway

1st - 2nd March, 2013

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €225.95
Conference Fee : €150.00

Association of County and City Councils Annual Conferences
Held in The Tower Hotel, Waterford City
7th - 8th March, 2013

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €259.03
Conference Fee : €130.00

Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises entitled
'Local Government Supporting Volunteerism'
Held in The Manor West Hotel, Killarney Road, Tralee, Co. Kerry
8th - 9th March, 2013

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €229.49
Conference Fee : €150.00

Conference organised by Ace Training entitled 'Local Authorities as Drivers of Local Development'
Held in The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth
8th - 10th March, 2013

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €578.31
Conference Fee : €100.00

Public Affairs Ireland Conference entitled 'A New Future for Local Government in Ireland -
Will the Government's reform proposals for local government deliver better services?'
Held in The Westin Hotel, Dublin
13th March, 2013

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €340.54
Conference Fee : €202.95

Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises entitled
'The Right to Privacy Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2003'
Held in The Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo
15th - 16th March, 2013

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €318.10
Conference Fee : €150.00

Conference organised by Tgr Seminars entitled 'Community & Local Development LEADER
Funding and the Councillor'
Held in The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth
15th - 17th March, 2013

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €578.31
Conference Fee : €145.00

Elected Members Training Seminar organised by Esperanza Enterprises entitled
'Employment Initiatives and Supports for the Unemployed'
Held in The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway
22nd - 23rd March, 2013

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €225.95
Conference Fee : €150.00

Seminar organised by Celtic Conferences entitled 'Drug and Alcohol Abuse Seminar'
Held in The Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork
22nd - 24th March, 2013

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €425.91
Conference Fee : €100.00

Seminar organised by Kadenza Consultancies entitled '20th Amendment Are plans to abolish and amalgamate Local Authorities Unconstitutional'

Held in The Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
22nd - 24th March, 2013

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €616.11
Conference Fee : €145.00

Seminar organised by Ace Training entitled 'Tax Entitlements Seminar 2013'

Held in The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth
29th - 31st March, 2013

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €578.31
Conference Fee : €100.00

Local Authority Members Association Spring Seminar

Held in The Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford
5th - 6th April, 2013

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €365.35
Conference Fee : €150.00

1916 Conference entitled 'A Decade of Commemorations'

Held in The Presentation Centre, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
13th April, 2013

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €348.81
Conference Fee : €100.00

The Westport Conference entitled 'Seminar on Media and the Councillor: Social Media and Traditional Media'

Held in The Westport Country Lodge Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo
19th - 21st April, 2013

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €427.09
Conference Fee : €139.00

Eures Cross Border Partnership Tourism Conference 2013 entitled 'Sustainable Tourism – Practical ideas for your business'

Held in Ballymacscanlon House Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth
24th April, 2013

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €439.78
Conference Fee : Nil

Bridging Course for Stage 3 of the Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Degree Programme (Local Government) (Three Seminars)

Held in The Institute of Public Administration Headquarters, Lansdowne Road, Dublin
11th/12th May, 25th/26th May and 15th/16th June 2013

Estimated Travel and Subsistence : €340.54 per Seminar
Conference Fee : €350.00

7. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Submitted Financial Statement for the month of January, 2013, which was adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Hourigan, seconded by Cllr. Byrne.

8. UPDATED RETAIL AND BUSINESS INCENTIVE SCHEME 2013 – 2015

It was proposed by Cllr. Hourigan, seconded by Cllr. Byrne and unanimously agreed to approve updated Retail and Business Incentive Scheme 2013 – 2015.

All Members welcomed the updated Retail and Business Incentive Scheme 2013 – 2015 which will address the problem of vacant business premises in the city centre.

9. REPORT OF THE LIMERICK CITY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE ON THE PERFORMANCE OF IT'S FUNCTIONS DURING 2012

The Report of the Limerick City Joint Policing Committee on the Performance of it's Functions during 2012 was noted.

Cllr. Quinlivan asked that consideration be given to holding a meeting of the Joint Policing Committees in the community rather than in City or County Hall.

Cllr. Hourigan stated that the issue of holding a Joint Policing Committee Meeting of the City and County JPCs was on the Agenda for the City JPC Meeting on 4th March and the County JPC Meeting on 11th March.

10. PLANNING PROPOSALS AND DECISIONS

The Meeting noted the list of Planning Proposals under consideration at 15th February, 2013 and decisions taken from 21st January, 2013 to 15th February, 2013.

11. AN BORD PLEANALA

The Meeting noted the list of decisions taken by An Bord Pleanala from 21st January, 2013 to 15th February, 2013.

12. MANAGER'S REPORT DATED 15TH FEBRUARY, 2013

It was proposed by Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Scully and unanimously agreed to approve Manager's Report dated 15th February, 2013 :

Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2012

Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – 2012 – Part 8

Limerick Smarter Travel – Route 2 – Link 1 Walking and Cycling Facility, Athlunkard Bridge to Park Canal

“Upgrade of the existing pathway which extends from Athlunkard Bridge along the river bank as far as the Guinness Bridge at Park Canal. The proposed works will include widening and resurfacing of the existing path to an all weather, low maintenance, accessible shared surface. The proposed work will also include the installation of public lighting, landscaping, signage and minor ancillary works. When the path is completed it will provide 1.620 km of good quality shared surface, running parallel to the River Shannon from Athlunkard Bridge to Park Canal and will form part of the Greenway to the University, Limerick” (C12/5)

13. 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 :

“That Limerick City Council source funding to design and install lights to regulate traffic and provide a safer environment for pedestrians crossing at the intersection of Thomond Bridge with Clancy Strand and the High Road, Thomondgate”.
Signed : Cllr. Tom Shortt

14. NOTICE OF MOTION

Submitted the following Notice of Motion, due notice of which was given, which was referred to the Economic Policy Development and Future Planning Strategic Policy Committee :

“That Limerick City Council apply to the European Commission to have the Shannon Estuary included in the 'Motorway of the Sea of Western Europe' and that we formally ask Limerick County Council, Clare County Council and Kerry County Council to support this application”.
Signed : Cllr. Diarmuid Scully

15. NOTICE OF MOTION

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

“That Limerick City Council and County Council give due recognition to Patrick Sarsfield, defender of Limerick and Marshall of France, who was mortally wounded at the battle of Landen in Belgium and buried in the grounds of St. Martin's Church in the town of Huy on the 29th July 1693 and that an invitation would be extended to the Mayor of Huy, Mr. Alex Housiaux and his entourage to visit Limerick with a view to establishing a proper and long overdue relationship with his town, a town which has such symbolic ties to all of us in Limerick. It is hoped that this invitation would coincide with the 320th anniversary of Patrick Sarsfield's death on 29th July, 2013”.

Signed : Cllr. Maria Byrne
Cllr. Cormac Hurley

This motion was not referred to the Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee due to the nearness to the date of the anniversary of Patrick Sarfield's death on 29th July, 2013 and considering the next SPC Meeting is not until 15th April.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Members of the Council enquired as to press attendance at the Area Meetings.

The Meetings Administrator agreed to check the position in relation to press attendance at Area Meetings.

THE MEETING THEN CONCLUDED

A TRUE RECORD

CONFIRMED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2013.

MAYOR OF LIMERICK

