

## Statement of outcomes for PPN representatives on external committees

Limerick PPN representatives on external committees are expected to prepare and sign a Statement of Outcomes for any meetings attended –one statement per committee, rather than one per representative.

This template is to help Limerick PPN representatives who sit on external committees to report effectively to their respective PPN Linkage Groups, the Secretariat and the wider PPN membership. Please complete the template and return to [ppn@limerick.ie](mailto:ppn@limerick.ie) as soon as possible after the meeting.

Please keep the Statement of Outcomes as brief as possible and note it will be added to the Limerick PPN website.

1. Name of Committee:	Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment SPC
2. Name of Linkage Group:	Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Linkage group
3. Name of PPN Representative(s) on this committee:	Denis McAuliffe, Caillum Hedderman, Michelle Hayes * Liz Gabbett*
4. Date of committee meeting:	8 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
5. Location of meeting:	Online via WEBEX
6. PPN representatives who attended this meeting:	Liz Gabbett, Michelle Hayes.
7. Meeting Agenda (bullet points):	<p><b><u>1. Minutes</u></b> - To consider the adoption of the Minutes of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee Meeting that was held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021.</p> <p><b><u>2. Director's Update:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>3. Update on Blue/Green Infrastructure Strategy:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>4. Presentation on The Swift Box Project:</u></b></p>

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	<p><b><u>5. Question submitted from Ms. Liz Gabbett</u></b></p> <p><b><u>6. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor B. Collins</u></b></p> <p><b><u>7. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan</u></b></p> <p><b><u>8. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. Secas</u></b></p> <p><b><u>9. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin</u></b></p> <p><b><u>10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Sheehan</u></b></p>



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<p><b>5. Question submitted by</b> <b>Liz Gabbett</b></p>	<p>“ With reference to the CABE SPC October 2020 meeting, item 6. Update on Review of use of Herbicides by LCCC (Anne Goggin, Senior Executive Engineer, LCCC). Ms Goggin noted the council would look at their contract for weed control and at pre-emergent spraying options. The Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Linkage Group members are concerned about the continued use of herbicide spray in and around housing estates, public areas and parks. I request an update from LCCC and their contractors on how much herbicide is being applied annually and ask has there been a reduction in the use and quantity of application over the past 5 years across the county and city?”</p>	<p>The herbicides used by the Council have the active ingredient Glyphosate. Herbicide is used directly by Council staff and also by contractors working on the Council’s behalf as outlined below.</p> <p><b><u>Grass cutting contractor</u></b></p> <p>The grass cutting contractor uses approximately 9,000ltrs of herbicide per year (after mixing to manufacturer’s instructions). The contract requires spraying in the following locations:</p> <p>All grass within 300mm of any fence, pole, road side barrier, sign, lamp standard or tree will be strimmed and controlled by the application of a suitable herbicide; the use of any specific herbicide is subject to the approval of Parks &amp; Landscaping Department. Grass growing onto any footpath or kerb must be cut back and controlled by means of a suitable herbicide. It is expected that there will be three no. sprays carried out on the relevant areas identified above during the growing season. It is expected that the first spray of all relevant areas will be completed prior to completion of the second cut. It is expected that the second full spray will be completed prior to completion of the fifth cut or June and finally October of each year. This is the final year of the current contract and this has been identified as an area where reductions in herbicide can be made and this will be a factor in the next grass cutting contract.</p> <p><b><u>Weed Control Contractor</u></b></p>	
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		<p>The weed control contractor uses approximately 280 litres of undiluted product</p> <p>Contract includes the following:</p> <p>☑ The supply and application of herbicide on areas adjoining footpaths, kerns, sign posts, kern channels, gullies and walls in both Limerick City and County Council Housing</p> <p>Estates in county areas and respective estates which have been taken in charge in Raheen, Dooradoyle, Castletroy, East and West Limerick, City Environs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 125 no County housing estates</li> <li>- 50 no Castletroy area housing estates</li> <li>- 103 no Dooradoyle-Raheen area housing estates</li> <li>- 59 no East and West Limerick housing estates</li> <li>- 236 no City Environs housing estates</li> </ul> <p>☑ The supply and application of herbicides on all public roads and public approach roads within the Metropolitan Boundary, including all foot ways, kerb channels, gullies and wall bases, currently being maintained by LCCC.</p> <p>Several sections of the Council use herbicide directly:</p> <p><b><u>The Parks Section</u></b></p> <p>The below table shows expenditure from the Parks Department to pesticide supplier Nomix Enviro:</p> <p>Supplier Date Description Total</p> <p>Nomix Enviro 24/04/15 Nomix Dual 4 x 5L/batteries/cleaner €5,700</p>	
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		<p>Nomix Enviro 26/05/15 Nomix Systemic 4 x5L €957</p> <p>Nomix Enviro 10/06/15 Nomix Dual 4 x 5L €1,240</p> <p>Nomix Enviro 02/07/15 Nomix Dual 4 X 5L €4,340</p> <p>Nomix Enviro 27/08/15 Nomix Dual €1,240</p> <p>Nomix Enviro 07/03/16 Nomix Dual, Nomix Systemic, cleaner €13,159</p> <p>Nomix Enviro 24/05/17 Nomix, Repair to applicators €992</p> <p>Nomix Enviro 28/07/17 Nomix, Repair to applicators €4,756</p> <p>Nomix Enviro 07/09/17 Nomix Dual €13,312</p> <p>Nomix Enviro 13/05/20 Repair to applicators €369</p> <p>In 2021 the decision was taken to cease using herbicide products in the Council's Parks.</p> <p><b><u>Cemeteries</u></b>Cemeteries ceased using pesticides about two years ago.</p> <p><b>Cleansing Department</b></p> <p>The Cleansing Department have not carried out spraying works in 2 years.</p> <p><b>Adare/Rathkeale and Newcastle West Housing Departments</b></p> <p>Housing maintenance do some small amounts of spraying each year. There is no record of this available for each municipal district. The spraying is done by council staff. They target weeds on driveways and car parks of the area office and unoccupied council houses. They have not tried alternative means. Gardens sown for council tenants are to be sprayed for weeds if requested by</p>	
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		<p>tenant after initial grass seeding, if weeds are abundant.</p> <p><b>Newcastle West Roads Department</b></p> <p>The Newcastle West Roads Department undertook a 3-year spraying programme for Japanese Knotweed, 2020 is year 3 of this programme.</p> <p>Other spraying is targeted at concrete kerbs, streets in towns and villages only.</p> <p>Max spend around €500 per year for all works, using Roundup or Gallup, twice yearly.</p> <p><b>Adare/Rathkeale Roads</b>  Department - spend on herbicide for 2019/2020</p> <p><b><u>2020</u></b></p> <p>15/5/20 120lt MIZR €456</p> <p>18/5/20 40 lt MIZR €152</p> <p>18/5/20 60 lt Round Up €348</p> <p>22/6/20 120lt MIZR €456</p> <p><b><u>2019</u></b></p> <p>15/2/19 5 lt Round Up €50</p> <p>21/2/19 1 lt Garlon Ultra €65</p> <p>17/5/19 100 lt MIZR €425</p> <p>31/5/19 100 lt MIZR €425</p> <p>24/7/19 5 lt Round Up €48.05</p>	
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		<p>24/7/19 5 lt Clinic Up <b>€33.99</b></p> <p>31/7/19 20 lt Round Up <b>€192</b></p> <p>13/9/19 40 lt MIZR <b>€170</b></p> <p><b>Cappamore/Kilmallock Housing Department</b></p> <p>Cappamore/Kilmallock Housing Department have limited information in relation to the use of pesticide. They use Round Up and estimate maybe 10 litres a year. Herbicide is applied using knapsack sprayers, for killing weeds in patio and stoned areas.</p> <p><b>Cappamore/Kilmallock Roads Department</b></p> <p>In relation to weed spraying in this area, the only spraying undertaken is part of street cleaning operations, two members of staff have done the required training course.</p> <p>The below table shows expenditure from the Cappamore/Kilmallock Roads Department area office to Nomix Enviro from 2014 to present and shows a decrease in expenditure and product.</p> <p>The below table shows expenditure from the Cappamore/Kilmallock Roads Department area office to Nomix Enviro from 2014 to present and shows a decrease in expenditure and product.</p> <p>Supplier Date Description Total</p> <p>Nomix Enviro 17/02/14 Nomix Dual 4 x 5L, Systemic 4 x5L <b>€7,044</b></p> <p>Nomix Enviro 25/02/15 Nomix Dual 4X 5L and Systemic 4 x 5L <b>€7,268</b></p>	
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		<p>Nomix Enviro 14/08/16 Nomix Dual 4x5litres <b>€3,290</b></p> <p>Nomix Enviro 30/06/16 Battery charger parts/service <b>€243</b></p> <p>Nomix Enviro 28/09/18 Weed killer and spraying equipment <b>€3,728.62</b></p> <p>Nomix Enviro 05/04/19 Weed killer <b>€3,316.57</b></p> <p>Nomix Enviro 10/07/20 Weed killer Nomix 4 cartons <b>€438.37</b></p> <p>There has been some reduction over the past five years, but it is only since the review of usage was carried out that a determined effort to reduce herbicide application is being made. It will no longer be used in Council parks. It's use in green space is being reviewed, however the cost implications of moving to alternative methods of control such as strimming will need to be factored in. At present there is no viable alternative on hard surfaces.</p> <p><b>REPLY: From LCCC</b></p> <p>Subject to the adoption of the Climate Action Bill 2020 which will require each Local Authority to develop a Climate action plan covering the areas of mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity, this plan will examine the role of the natural environment including trees and hedgerows in supporting the transition to a low carbon economy and society. As the SPC members may be aware the Council is currently drafting a tree management strategy and this motion can be examined as part of that process.</p>	
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<p><b>6. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. B.Collins</b></p>	<p>“ I move at the next meeting that that Limerick City and County Council seeks to engage a consultant to calculate the carbon credits that are created by trees and hedgerows throughout Limerick City and County and the findings be included in the LCCC Climate Change Adaption Strategy 2019-2024”.</p>	<p>The Motion was seconded by Cllr. E Secas.</p> <p><b>REPLY From LCCC:</b></p> <p>Limerick City and County Council have conducted a pilot scheme in providing portable toilets at the following locations –</p> <p>5 at Merchant’s Quay,</p> <p>5 at Arthur’s Quay Park and</p> <p>3 at Robert Byrne Park on Clancy Strand.</p> <p>The success/effectiveness of the pilot is now being evaluated. The toilets of hospitality businesses engaging in outdoor dining are now also open to customers.</p>	
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<p><b>7. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Sheehan</b></p>	<p>“I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County identify suitable locations for additional public toilets within the Metropolitan area”</p>		
<p><b>8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. E. Secas</b></p>	<p>“ I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick City and County Council introduce a digital advertising bins pilot program at parks that will remind people to feed the bin not the grass and will display public information messages and ads. Such a program will help the Council to get some revenue in return for the advertising opportunities”</p>	<p>The Motion was seconded by Cllr. B Collins.</p> <p><b>REPLY from LCCC:</b></p> <p>The Council intends to roll out solar compacting bins in the city centre to address the increased waste being generated in the city. Funding is being made available nationally to Local Authorities for the purchase of these bins. The number and locations of these bins has yet to be determined and will be confined to areas of most need in the city centre. It is not possible to state at this time how many bins will be located in the Parks or whether they can facilitate digital advertising. The Council would need to investigate this as part of the procurement process.</p> <p>It is also worth noting that the CityxChange project is considering external digital signs around the city which is an alternative option to providing messaging on bins. The Council needs to consider the request of messaging and advertising further in order to</p>	

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		determine the most appropriate method.	
<p><b>9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. J. Leddin</b></p>	<p>“I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick Metropolitan District Council requires the preservation of existing mature trees where feasible in all housing and commercial developments.”</p>	<p>Cllr. Secas proposed the motion on behalf of Cllr. Leddin.</p> <p><b>REPLY from LCCC:</b></p> <p>Mature trees are a hugely important asset in Limerick City and County. There are several relevant aims in Goal 4 of the Limerick City and County Corporate Plan 2019-2024 which aim to protect biodiversity and green infrastructure generally and which can be applied to trees. In addition, the Limerick City Development Plan 2010 -2016 (as extended) contains the following statement and policy aimed at preserving mature trees:</p> <p><b>Trees &amp; Urban Woodlands (Limerick City Development Plan 2010 - 2016)</b></p> <p>Trees make a valuable contribution to the landscape, local visual amenity and biodiversity of Limerick City. They also have an educational and scientific value. Trees can help to absorb pollutants, filter dust, reduce noise, produce oxygen and reduce carbon dioxide as well as enhancing the aesthetics of the built environment and public realm thus benefiting Limerick City’s environmental and economic wellbeing. The Planning &amp; Development Act 2000-2008 sets out the legal framework and procedures to make a Tree Preservation Order. To date the City Council has not instigated any Tree Preservation Orders, although it may consider additions within the</p>	

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		<p>lifetime of this plan, as resources allow.</p> <p><b>Policy LBR.10 (Limerick City Development Plan 2010 - 2016)</b></p> <p>It is the policy of Limerick City and County Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To protect and maintain existing important individual and groups of trees from development risk, provide additional tree planting of native deciduous trees and other appropriate plantings through planning permissions in order to benefit local biodiversity;</li> <li>2.To strengthen the protection of trees in the City and protect tree lined settings;</li> <li>☐ To preserve, maintain and increase the general tree cover in the City by extending planting at identified locations and identifying new sites suitable for the creation of small woodland areas;</li> <li>3. To make use of tree preservation orders to protect important trees or groups of trees which may be at risk;</li> <li>4. To protect and maintain existing important wetland habitats from development risk, encroachment of incompatible uses, and proposals for filling to ensure sustainability, enhancement of local biodiversity and retention of flood plain storage areas.</li> </ol> <p><b><u>REPLY from LCCC:</u></b></p>	
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<p><b>10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Sheehan</b></p>	<p>“I will move at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that the Council calls on all restaurants and takeaways with drive through facilities to print car registration numbers on all packaging for food and drinks items that are purchased and to call on the Minister for Transport, Environment and Climate Change to roll out the initiative nationwide”</p>	<p>LCCC notes the merits of introducing such a scheme but unfortunately we have not found a legislative basis under the Waste Management Act or Litter Pollution Act upon which we could compel vendors to affix vehicle registrations to takeaway bags.</p> <p>In terms of GDPR legislation vehicle registrations would be classed as personal information and it seems the takeaway vendors would have no lawful basis for collecting that information from their customers.</p> <p>In similar advice the Data Protection Commissioner has advised that the collection of such information is disproportionate to the littering offence committed. Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications currently have no plans to introduce legislation to give a legislative basis for doing this.</p> <p>The Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy commits to substantially reducing the amount of single use plastic cups and food containers we use. Measures to achieve this include the introduction of levies, similar to the plastic bag levy. Producers have a role to play in cutting down on the amount of these items we use and, under the Single Use Plastics Directive and current Extended Producer Responsibility model, they will be liable for the costs of litter clean up associated with the products they place on the market.</p> <p>Finally, it is noted that Minister Ryan has recently announced the allocation of €5m in additional funding for litter infrastructure and awareness campaigns to encourage people to dispose of their rubbish thoughtfully, in the context of an outdoor summer. The funding will add more recycling and litter</p>	
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		<p>facilities to meet increased demand but there is an onus on all of us to make a conscious effort to leave no trace. If the Motion is recommended by the CABE SPC and is subsequently approved by Limerick City and County Council we will write to the Minister outlining the contents of the proposal.</p>	
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NAME(S) PRINTED - OF EACH PPN REPRESENTATIVE WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING	SIGNATURE(S) <i>If no signature possible, an email confirming the Representative's agreement to this Statement of Outcomes will be kept on file by Limerick PPN staff</i>
1. Liz Gabbett	1.
2. Michelle Hayes	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.
7.	7.
8.	8.