

Allotment Schemes

Limerick City Council

L/AH/AS

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Introduction

AH/AS/ Allotment Scheme for Urban Dwellers/1

Borough Corporations may take land for allotment by agreement or if unable to get it by agreement to take it compulsorily, Land acquired compulsorily cannot be taken for more than five years. The allotments can be let to one or two persons or to a number of persons working on an approved co-operative system or an allotment association. The rents should meet the expenses but if the plots are let to the unemployed, merely nominal rents should be charged, and seeds, manure etc provided free. A grant is made to recoup local authorities the loss of rent when nominal rents are fixed and the cost of providing free seeds, manure, implements etc is borne by the Exchequer.

Allotments made available to unemployed persons and supply of implements, seeds, spraying materials etc. From 1940, the Emergency resulted in the Government being anxious that a special effort be made to increase food production throughout the country and to this to make available ample facilities for the cultivation of allotments –to both unemployed and employed persons, For employed persons, rent should be charged. Advised that a small Committee be formed to promote scheme, applications invited by public notice, when demand has been ascertained the Local Authority should then select suitable land,.

In Limerick land acquired by Corporation in 1939-land at Farranshone, land acquired for housing at Prospect, land acquired at Corballyy (Barry's Field)

Acquisition of Land (Allotments) Act 1926 and 1934

1. General Files (1938-1941)

1/[1-4]

1/5	9 December 1938-c. August 1941	General file relating to Land Allotment Scheme in Limerick. File consists of circulars and correspondence from Department of Agriculture regarding administration of the scheme and payment of grants; returns of allotment holders and summary of accounts for purchasing seeds, spraying material, and farming implements from various merchants; quotations and bills received from various merchants; public posters inviting allotment applications; correspondence between Corporation and allotment holders generally discussing their failure to cultivate their allotment or damage to implements; correspondence regarding damage to allotments caused by horses, cattle or trespassers.
		c. 150 pp.

1/6	2 October 1940-4 July 1941	File relating mainly to the Land Allotment Scheme for the 1941 Season. Includes correspondence with land owners requesting they lease land to the Corporation for use as allotments and city engineer's reports on suitability of land; Includes letters such as ' I am informed that there is a plot of ground attached to your yard at the New Street which would be suitable for allotments. As you are probably aware, the Corporation are making a determined effort to increase the number of allotments under cultivation this year in view of the serious food position...' (copy etter from City Manager to Messrs William B. Fitt and Company, 14 February 1941). Includes correspondence regarding damage to allotments and notices issued by the city manager to allotment holders with comments such as ' I have received a serious complaint that trees on Mr. O' Grady's boundaries are being cut and damaged. I would appeal to allotment holders in their own interests to prevent this destruction of private property...' (J.J Berkley to allotment holders, 14 May 1941) Includes quotes from merchants for supplying seed, implements and other farming supplies. Includes correspondence between J.J Berkley (city manager), John Dundon (city solicitor) and Miss Elixabeth Ebrill regarding handing back of Pike Field, Spittal, in Conacre let by the Corporation for the provision of allotments as 'it is worn out and dirty' (2 October 1940)
		c. 140 pp

2. Compensation Claims Files (1941-1949)

Micheal and Joseph Cussen

2/1 15 April 1941-28 April 1949 File relating to compensation claim of Messrs M and J. Cussen (plantiffs) against Limerick Corporation for damage to fields at Janesboro and Rathbane leased by the plantiffs to the Corporation for cultivation under the use as Allotments Acts between 1941 and 1947. Includes correspondence between city manager (J.J Berkley), J.J Dundon (city solicitor), James McMahon (barrister for Limerick Corporation) and William Leahy and Sons (solicitor for the plantiffs). Includes copy agreement for Conacre letting with Cussens, compulsory letting orders, copy statement of claim, copy opinion of Counsel, and report on condition of lands from C. Stenson (city engineer).

c. 90 pp

2/2 5 January 1948-21 April 1949 File relating to compensation claims of Kathleen Moloney and Charles Ebrill against Limerick Corporation for damage to lands leased by them to the Corporation for cultivation under the use as Allotments Acts. Limerick Corporation leased lands at Athlunkard from Kathleen Moloney and lands at Little Summerville from Ebrill. File includes reports and correspondence from Louis DeCoursey (auctioneer, valuer, and live stock salesman) regarding damage caused to the lands and the devaluation of the land, and also reports regarding repair work necessary from C. Stenson (city engineer). Includes correspondence between J. J Dundon (city solicitor) William Leahy and Son (solicitors for Moloney and Ebrill) and Department of Local Government regarding the paying of compensation. Includes letter from Louis DeCoursey to (agent for Mrs, Moloney) to J.J Dundon stating 'would you kindly sat what the Corporation proposes to do in regard to getting this field back to normal condition, thee greater portion of the field was not tilled and was allowed to go into dirt and weeds, only a few plots have been properly attended to ..'(5 January 1948).

c. 20 items