



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

Remarks from Mayor Adam Wyse on his election as Mayor of Waterford City & County Council, June 30th 2016

Thank you all for being here this evening. I would to acknowledge former and present Oireachtas members, past Mayors, fellow Cllr's and friends and family.

I would like to thank Cllr James Tobin for formally proposing me. As some of you may know, Cllr Tobin was the first mayor of this new body. In a time when we needed someone with a huge amount of experience and respect for the role, this body chose Cllr Tobin who did himself, his family and Waterford Proud. I would also like to thank Cllr Jason Murphy, one of the most community driven people I know for formally seconding me. I would consider him one of my closest friends and colleagues inside and outside this chamber. I would also like to congratulate Cllr John Cummins on his successful year as Mayor. To represent your city and county as Mayor is a huge honour but to do it twice at such a young age is an amazing achievement. I would also like to thank my family and friends for their continued support. I am delighted to have all of you here for this moment. Unfortunately there are people that could not be here, most importantly my Mother as she is away in America working. My younger sister Natasha is with her. I am delighted to have my eldest brother Darren present, but my other brother Jason is working in Dublin and could not be here this evening. This is not a situation that is unique to my family. It is one that many families in Waterford face. Our loved ones

that cannot be present for joyous occasions as they work outside of Waterford.

In my year as Mayor, I intend to work on progressive projects to create the opportunity for people to live and work here in Waterford. We can do this at a local level by attracting employment; tourism and foot fall back into our city and towns. The likes of the European 2020 Capital of culture bid gives us an opportunity to put Waterford back on the map, not just nationally but across Europe.

I would ask everyone who is not aware of this bid to do a small bit of research and to back our bid to showcase our cultural offering.

The Deise Greenway is another massive investment in Waterford's future. The potential of this project to attract tourists to Waterford City and County is massive. I look forward to working on this in my year as Mayor. The urban renewal throughout our city center and the construction of a multi-story car park and shopping center will allow us to improve our retail offering and assist a struggling city centre. The development of the north quays, whether it be a hotel, high rise office buildings or a conference centre has so much potential and I see it as an extension of our city centre and not a movement of it.

But at the same time I am a realist, I understand we face many challenges here in Waterford. The lack of investment in our airport - without further investment to extend the runway we will lose our direct link to foreign business. The University status of WIT is another huge issue which has been

spoken about for a long time with very little action. As a recent graduate myself and having worked in WIT, I see we have the finest academic and non-academic staff. WIT already competes successfully in research funding and also the calibre of its graduates is second to none. It is time we put party politics aside and work as a united body alongside all interested to deliver University status for WIT.

Probably the most important issue that we in Waterford face is our lack of 24/7 cardiac care. Some of you may know my family's link to this issue. My own father Gary Wyse died of a heart attack. My family knows that everything that could have been done medically for him was done by the wonderful staff in the hospital. We know this because the heart attack happened mid-day mid-week. Some people are not given this opportunity in Waterford. It is a national disgrace that those who live here and want to live here must live with the fear that if they have a heart attack outside of office hours, they may not survive. I was delighted to hear that the newly elected metropolitan mayor Cllr John Hearne plans to lead a delegation to the relevant ministers and government departments regarding this issue. I would like to see all of us in the plenary body work together and demand this for Waterford.

Speaking of my father, I could sit up here for hours and talk about what he achieved as a politician and I'm sure some of the members that served alongside him on the previous body would have many kind stories to tell. But I'm more interested in talking about him as a man, a father, a husband. He grew up in St. Johns Park and at the age of 19 started his own business, and with him he brought one core belief. That you should never look down on someone unless you are helping them back. It is that belief which allowed him

to connect with people and was the reason he was so successful in politics, work and family life. It is a belief he passed on to me and my brothers and sister. That we are all equal. Whether you're gay or straight, black or white, male or female, young or old we should all be given the equal opportunity to work, live and love in Waterford.

Finally, I would like to mention my Mother who as I said could not be here tonight. But she has been there for me on many occasions before when I needed her most. She is the hardest working most caring woman I have and ever will meet. To have what happened to her, to lose a companion of 25+ years, the father of her four children and to still every day get up and work, and provide and never give up. That is my final rallying call, that we never give up on ourselves, and we never give up on Waterford.

Thank you all for your continued support, I am very much looking forward to my years as Mayor working to progress these projects and alleviate these issues. Thank you again