

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting of the Metropolitan District held by Zoom on 20th September, 2021 @ 5.00pm

Present:

Cllr. Seamus Ryan, Mayor	Cllr. John Hearne
Cllr. Joanne Bailey	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. Donal Barry	Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Davy Daniels	Cllr. Eamonn Quinlan
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. Susan Gallagher	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Adam Wyse

Apologies:

Cllr. Joe Kelly and Cllr. Jason Murphy

Officials in attendance:

Mr. R. Moloney, SEO Environment
Mr. I. Grimes, DOS Housing
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
Mr. L. McGree, Senior Planner
Ms. C. Hartley, SEO Housing
Mr. C. O'Neill, SEE Roads
Ms. B. Stosic, A/SEE, Roads
Mr. P. Johnston, SRE Housing
Mr. A. Lennon, EE Housing
Mr. M. Partridge, Ex. Architect. Housing
Mr. P. Keane, SEE, Economic
Ms. C. Johnston, EE, Economic
Ms. A. O'Shea, Corporate Department

Meetings Administrator carried out roll call for attendance.

The Mayor asked for Standing Orders to be suspended to take item Nos. 4, 5 & 6 before item No. 3 this was proposed by Cllr. Roche and seconded by Cllr. Bailey and agreed.

The Mayor made a statement as follows:

Waterford motto 'Urbs Intacta Manet Waterfordia – the city that remains untaken' prompted the Mayor to look at the Covid crisis and how the people of Waterford rose to the challenge. He commended the council staff, Health Care workers working in our hospital, nursing homes, WIT vaccination centre, staff in schools and business who all who faced adversity and rose to the challenge. To the sporting communities and especially to our senior hurling team who brought us great joy on reaching the All Ireland in Croke Park with no attendance allowed. To the badly hit Arts community he called on all to support our theatres, cinemas, galleries and local music venues over the next few months with restrictions being lifted. To the elderly people who had to stay indoors for a long period and the tremendous effort of the community supporting them. He thanked the people of Waterford and surrounding areas of Dunmore

East and Tramore who all played their part in the restrictions being lifted. He said we can now welcome tourists back to our city. We have an excellent community spirit in line with our motto and said Waterford is a great place to live which was reflected in the Irish Times picking Waterford as one of the best places to live. He is very proud to be the Mayor of the Metropolitan District.

Councillors supported the statement thanking everyone for their efforts.

Vote of Sympathies/Congratulations:

Votes of sympathy were expressed to the families of the late Mary Prendergast, Pat O'Donoghue, Derek Power, Frankie King and Myles Tighe.

Votes of congratulations expressed to Thomas Barr on representing Waterford and Ireland in the Olympics and being ranked 9th in the World and to Bernie Power, Taste Tramore on running a successful Vitamin Sea Festival in Tramore.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 19th July, 2021 were proposed by Cllr. O'Sullivan seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald and agreed by all.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Daniels requested update on query regarding improving facilities at the Williamstown Golf Course. Cllr. Roche looked for update on the response due to be issued to residents at Williamstown Glen.

I. Grimes, DoS stated they are currently undertaking an operational review of Williamstown Golf course and will look at possible additions. Regarding response to Williamstown Glen, he said he will check with planning and revert to Cllr. Roche.

4. Section 48 – Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011 – Renaming of area in front of Menapia Building – for approval

R. Moloney, SEO stated a proposal has been made to the Plenary Mayor regarding the naming of the public plaza area which is located to the front of the Waterford Crystal visitor centre and factory at Menapia Building on The Mall. The proposal is to name the area the Charles Bacik Plaza in honour of Charles Bacik who was the co-founder of the modern Waterford Glass and later the Waterford Crystal company. He stated that the Section 48 is a formal process requiring public consultation and this was the start of the process which would take 2 months.

It was proposed by Cllr. Power and seconded by Cllr. O'Sullivan and agreed to commence the process.

Cllr. Mulligan asked if the area was owned by WCCC.

Cllr. Power asked that more information be made available on Mr. Bacik and would a plaque be erected with this information.

Cllr. Griffin asked if Waterford Crystal was going to remain in its current location.

R. Moloney, SEO, stated that he will check regarding ownership noting that Section 48 relates to a public place.

5. Part 8 Greenway Access Ramp – for approval

C. Johnston, EE gave an overview of the Part 8. It was proposed by Cllr. Power and seconded by Cllr. Griffin and agreed by all to proceed.

6. Planning: Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended Planning & Development Regulations 2001 as amended Part V111: for approval

a). 14 No. Social Housing Scheme dwellings at Fountain Street, Ferrybank

A. Lennon, EE, outlined details of the public consultation and stated ninety-five written submissions were received. All comments and observations raised in the submissions had been taken into account in the assessment of the proposed development. Following a thorough assessment and consideration of each of the submissions received, it has been concluded that no material amendments to the proposed scheme are required. However, increased car parking provision and retention of an existing tree on site are recommended.

Councillors raised concerns with the density, number of parking spaces and north facing balconies and asked for a deferral to the October meeting to give more time to consult with the residents.

I. Grimes, DoS, stated they were still in the time frame of the Part 8 to defer to the October meeting but that he did not want to give unrealistic expectations to the residents and there was no room for changes and plans have been approved by the Department of Housing. After much discussion it was decided to defer the Part 8 to the October meeting to allow more discussions with residents.

b). 5 No. Group Houses under the TAP Scheme at Green Road, Waterford

M. Partridge, EA, stated the objective of the proposal is to provide permanent housing to those having been assessed as having Traveller housing needs, in this case through the provision of five units on the outskirts of Waterford City, and adjacent to an existing Traveller accommodation unit. Having due regard to the third party submissions received and following a thorough assessment and consideration of each of the submissions it has been concluded that no material amendments to the proposed scheme are required. However, drawings of the proposal have been updated to show the height restriction barrier at the entrance to the site, he recommend that the members resolve to approve the proposal as outlined.

Cllr. Mulligan enquired what proposals were in place for the void area Northeast of the site and if tenants would be responsible for collection of rubbish.

Cllr. Roche asked what plans were in place for the tenants during the construction works and asked for a commitment from the Council on the management of the site.

Cllr. Power had concerns regarding animals and stated would there be an extra cost to the €770K paid for the management of Traveller sites.

Cllr. Barry in favour of the development and asked if a commitment could be given to take immediate action with unauthorized developments in the area. He also asked if the 22 houses planned for the area could be made affordable.

Cllr. F. Quinlan in favour of the development but had concerns regarding animal husbandry and unauthorized caravans and asked for the area to be cleaned up. He also asked that the 22 housing development planned for the area be made affordable.

Cllr. Gallagher in favour of the development and stated these people are marginalized and have to be provided with decent accommodation.

Cllr. Ryan in favour of the development and stated the children should be given every support. He also raised concerns regarding animal husbandry and asked the Council to engage with the Traveller community to help with this.

I. Grimes, DoS, urged the Councillors to approve the Part 8. He said waste is a significant issue but stressed that not all waste is created by the travelling community, and he is actively looking at a management & maintenance plan for the halting sites and working with the travelling community to give them an element of ownership. He stated there will be no extra cost to the annual maintenance budget and confirmed that the 22 houses will be made affordable.

M. Partridge, EA, confirmed that the site that is being developed is adjacent to the current site so all residents will remain in situ during the construction of the houses.

The Part 8 was proposed by Cllr. Gallagher and seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald and agreed by all.

3. Reports

Cllr. Power stated that the playground in Cheekpoint was sabotaged and asked could the Council reinstate the play equipment. He also asked for litter bins to be put in place on the road between Faithlegg and Cheekpoint and stated that Waterford Helping Hand which provides meals for homeless people is looking for a premises and asked if the Council could help.

Cllr. Barry asked was there any plans for the Sorting Office on the Quay following unsuccessful funding bid for Viking attraction stating it is a prime location and needs a visitor attraction. He also said marine tourism needs to be developed in Waterford and asked for support in this area for people interested in developing this.

Cllr. Roche welcomed Failte Ireland funding for the city of lights and noted that some of the buildings listed are empty and asked that the Thomas Francis Meagher bridge be included on the list. She asked when projects are being submitted for funding that councillors are updated and asked for their views. The People's Park needs to be revamped and asked that a presentation be made to the Councillors of plans for the Park. She welcomed the works to the Millennium Plaza but noted the low wall in front of the plaza has not yet been painted and said pressure needs to be kept on the City Walls project which is an asset that needs to be exploited.

C. O'Neill, SEE said there is a small budget for the repair and maintenance of playgrounds, and he will get the equipment in the playground fixed in the next few weeks.

C. Hartley, SEO will revert to Councillors regarding premises for Waterford Helping Hand.

R. Moloney, SEO will discuss the placing of litter bins on the road to Cheekpoint with the Roads Department. He will bring the issue of appraising Councillors for funding applications to the Management Team. He hopes to bring the plans for the People's Park to Council soon and stated that works to the fountain will go to tender very soon and he confirmed that the small wall on the Plaza is being painted by WCCC staff. He will refer query regarding the Sorting Office and marine tourism to Economic and ask that response be circulated to all Councillors.

Cllr. E. Quinlan asked if Upper Main Street in Tramore is being resurfaced as it is very patchy following works and asked if it was Economic or Roads that were responsible for this. He also asked if there was going to be a new taxi rank provided in Tramore. He suggested the construction of a roundabout at New Street and removing all the bollards would help ease flow of traffic.

Cllr. Fitzgerald commended the Roads Department for works to roundabout at entrance to Dunmore East and looked for update on 2nd pedestrian crossing at Horsequarter. He looked for update on the Harbour Constable at Passage East and said works are needed for the steps in the harbour and also looked for update on works to the pier in Cheekpoint.

Cllr. Gallagher asked if there could be traffic calming measures put on the Glen Road and could the Council look at cities that are piloting the 'last mile delivery green mode of transport' and see if a similar scheme could be adapted in the City. She thanked the Council for works commencing on the pedestrian crossing in Barrack Street.

Cllr. Mulligan thanked the outdoor department for installation of gym equipment in Farronshoneen Park and works to the Plaza. He looked for updates on date of workshop for Michael Street development, progress of walkway/cycleway from Glenville to City Centre, Railway Square pocket garden, Metro Transport Strategy, works on Carlisle Bridge, bicycle parking stations and affordable accommodation for artists in Cultural Quarter. He was also disappointed that the Thomas Francis Meagher bridge was not listed in the city of lights and asked for its inclusion.

Cllr. O'Sullivan asked for lighting in the Doneraile to be replaced before the winter. She said the one-way system out to Newtown Cove is working and asked for it not to be reversed. She asked for signage to be put up in Newtown Cove by the seating area warning of loose rocks.

B. Stosic, A/SEE said she is reviewing the location of the taxi rank in Tramore. Works to lighting on the Doneraile is scheduled to commence on the 27th of September and the bicycle scheme is on public display with delivery of bicycle and docking stations due before end of year.

C. O'Neill, SEE said resurfacing of Upper Main Street Tramore is not in Roads Work Programme for 2021 but can be considered for inclusion in 2022. No changes will be considered to the traffic calming in New Street until the Metro Area Transport Strategy, which will be published in the coming months and both members and the public will be able to make submissions. Works on the 2nd crossing at Horsequarter is being tendered with works to take place in October. New Bye Laws are currently being developed and once in place the vacancy for the Harbour Constable in Passage East will be filled, in the interim the Area Engineer or GSS will deal with any queries/issues. Works at Cheekpoint Pier will comprise of grouting of cracks on the deck and over slabbing of a section of the deck. Fill in scoured area at corner of the Pier. Grouting cracks on walls and fixing steps. Work will commence at the start of October and be completed by Mid-November. Access will be maintained as far as practically possible throughout construction.

R. Moloney, stated that the pocket park in Railway Square is scheduled for Quarter 1 in 2022.

Cllr. F. Quinlan agreed with putting a mini roundabout in New Street for ease of traffic flow. He looked for update on the painting of the disabled bays, communication boards in our parks and replacement of the outdoor equipment in the People's Park. He also asked for signs to be erected in O'Connell Street asking cyclists and scooters to dismount at the outdoor dining areas.

Cllr. Griffin asked if the Public Realm works in Tramore are on track to finish on time and agreed that resurfacing works should happen on Upper Main Street and asked that it be put on the Roads Work Programme early in 2022. He said signage advising of the one-way system at Newtown Cove needs to be erected further back towards the main road and traffic calming on the Glen Road is needed.

Cllr. Hearne asked that an effort to get all estates on the Register of Electors be made and the need for vigilance with bonfires coming up to Halloween.

Cllr. Bailey asked if land banks could be identified and maps circulated. She looked for working groups for all parks in Waterford and asked that directional signage for Wyse Park be erected.

Cllr. Daniels looked for traffic calming signage on the Callaghan to Ballygunner Cross road due to the high volume of traffic on the road. He asked if the Riverwalk could be checked for Japanese Knotweed as people are concerned. He looked for extra disabled car parking spaces in the city and road markings to be painted on the Dunmore Road especially by UHW. He congratulated Eamonn McEaney and his team for the opening on the Time & Clock Museum and thanked R. Moloney for all his assistance with queries regarding the Riverwalk.

Cllr. Conway raised serious concerns with the condition of the Railway Station building in Tramore and asked if it could be dealt with before winter.

C. O'Neill, SEE said he would look at signage on the Callaghan to Ballygunner Cross road and road markings on the Dunmore Road and asked if specific locations of Japanese Knotweed could be identified. It was agreed that all unanswered questions would be answered by email to the members.

7. Correspondence

None

8. Motions

None

9. AOB

The Mayor noted that it was Cllr. Gallagher's last meeting and wished her well and every success for the future. He said she was an exceptional Councillor and had great depth of knowledge and will be missed. Cllr. Bailey said it was a pleasure working with Cllr. Gallagher, she was a great support and wished her the best.

Cllr. Roche said Cllr. Gallagher was extremely competent, and it was a pity to be losing a woman she will stay in touch and wished her the best of luck for the future.

Cllr. Hearne wished Cllr. Gallagher all the best stating she was a breath of fresh air and spoke from her heart and he was sorry to see her go and wished her the best.

Cllr. O'Sullivan spoke on behalf of Fianna Gael and wished Cllr. Gallagher all the best. She said she was a wonderful person and a great voice for the Green Party and will be a loss to the Council.

Cllr. Conway said Cllr. Gallagher was an admirable person and wished her the best.

Cllr. Griffin wished Cllr. Gallagher the best of luck stating she represented her constituency well. He said the role of a Councillor is demanding.

Cllr. E. Quinlan spoke on behalf of Fianna Fail said Cllr. Gallagher was a great colleague and respected by all her constituents. She will be missed and he wished her best wishes for the future.

Cllr. Barry thanked Cllr. Gallagher for all her hard work in the Council and wished the very best for the future.

R. Moloney, SEO spoke on behalf of F. Galvin and the Management Team and thanked Cllr. Gallagher for her contribution to the Metropolitan meetings and also the Environment SPC and said he will be collaborating with WIT during the Decarbonising Zone plan.

Cllr. F. Quinlan wished Cllr. Gallagher the best stating she was hard working and extremely pleasant.

Cllr. Daniels wished Cllr. Gallagher every success for the future and thanked her for support during his tenure as Metropolitan Mayor.

Cllr. Fitzgerald wished Cllr. Gallagher the best of luck and thanked her for her input into the Environment SPC.

Cllr. Gallagher thanked everyone for their kind words and good wishes. She has huge admiration for all Councillors and thanked everyone for the welcome and all the support she received and especially from Honor Dunphy. She wished everyone the best.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____