

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting of the Metropolitan District held by MS Teams on 18th October, 2021 @ 5.00pm

Present:

Cllr. Seamus Ryan, Mayor	Cllr. Cristiona Kiely
Cllr. Joanne Bailey	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. Donal Barry	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr. Davy Daniels	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Eamonn Quinlan
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. Joe Kelly	

Apologies:

Cllr. Adam Wyse

Officials in attendance:

Mr. F. Galvin, District Manager
Mr.P. Johnston, A/DoS, Housing
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
Mr. L. McGree, Senior Planner
Mr. D. O'Murchadha, SEE Planning
Ms. C. Hartley, SEO Housing
Mr. C. O'Neill, SEE Roads
Ms. N. Keating, SEE, Roads
Mr. A. Lennon, EE Housing
Mr. P. Blake, Ex. Architect. Housing
Ms. L. Grant, SSO, Economic
Ms. A. O'Shea, Corporate Department

Meetings Administrator carried out roll call for attendance.

Vote of Sympathies/Congratulations:

Votes of sympathy were expressed to the families of the late Maura Grant, Annie Kelly and Gerry Valentine.

A vote of congratulations was extended to Heather O'Connor on competing in the Irish Young Riders Eventing team and winning a silver medal in the European Championship.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 20th September, 2021 were proposed by Cllr. O'Sullivan seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed by all.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Mulligan and Cllr. Roche raised issues with way in which matters arising are dealt with and stated they need to be examined. The Mayor said this can be done when the Standing Orders are being reviewed.

3. Reports

Cllr. Mulligan looked for an update on the 28 affordable housing units in Gracedieu, he stated that a Management Plan needs to be put in place for the City Centre for both traffic and pedestrians and stated that John's Avenue needs to be cleaned up as it's a main thoroughfare from Parnell Street and is in a disgraceful condition.

Cllr. Barry expressed his disappointment that plans for a large scale Conference Centre at the Tower Hotel have been dropped and asked if anything can be done as it would be a huge loss to tourism in the City. He asked was there any plans to bring the Knights Templar graveyard in Kilbarry, back to a respectful state as it is overgrown and asked what was the delay with tenants moving in to the houses in Doyle Street.

Cllr. E. Quinlan asked for the original timelines and costings for the Tramore Public Realm Works and how much money has been spent to date. He asked if Roads Department could look at converting a car parking space to an ambulance bay near the Kehoe practice in Ballybricken as ambulance's called to the surgery cause major traffic disruptions. He asked if the LIHAF development planned for Gracedieu could be modified to create affordable housing on Council lands as the original plans have been delayed too long.

P. Johnston A/DoS, stated the plans for 28 affordable units have gone back to Government to avail of the affordable housing fund and site investigations have commenced. He said there is a delay with the houses in Doyle Street due to a minor technical issue with soundproofing. He is reviewing options with the LIHAF scheme and plans are currently being discussed with the Department to deliver affordable houses on Council lands.

L. McGree, SP said that a planning application has been received from the Tower Hotel which includes a significant extension to the existing conference facilities and he has been in discussions with the owners stating that the Council would look to include a large Conference Centre in the development.

F. Galvin, DoS said he is actively working on a Traffic Management Plan for the City Centre. He agrees that John's Avenue is in poor condition and will ask the area engineer to check it out. He said the Knights Templar graveyard is in private ownership but will talk to the Conservation Officer. He will have a look at ambulance parking in Ballybricken. He also introduced Nicola Keating as the new SEE replacing Barbara Stosic who has moved on to Active Travel. Nicola will be looking after traffic management, traffic lights, public lights, signs, parking and related matters.

L. Grant, SSO said Tramore Public Realm works commenced in 2020 with a timeline of 12 months but due to Covid working restrictions over the past 20 months there have been a number of delays. It is anticipated that substantial completion will be achieved before Christmas. The original estimated cost was €2.1M and the current cost is €2.4M.

Cllr. Murphy raised concerns regarding the volume of traffic driving through the City causing traffic jams on Manor St/Parnell St/The Quay. He asked if a survey could be taken as to how many vehicles use this as a through road and not use the by-pass and said it is having a detrimental effect on our City. He also looked for details on the number of penalties and fines issued for breaking the 5 axel ban restrictions.

Cllr. Kelly looked for update on the water feature in the People's Park and the playground in Railway Square. He asked if an engineer could go up to check out a raised manhole outside Presentation Gardens and Vincent White Road which is badly damaged and is in need of repair. He noted that the footings on the windbreakers in the Applemarket are still protruding and are a trip hazard. He referred to a recent

report which stated that Waterford Council had one of the highest number of claims in the Country and said something needs to be done and looked for update on the building in the Glen which the Council purchased.

Cllr. Fitzgerald raised concerns about Cheekpoint Pier which a protected structure as cracks have appeared in the wall due to a build up of silt and he hopes that the current works will be successful. He looked for update on the 5 fully serviced sites in Coxtown, Dunmore East which have not been developed for 15 years.

F. Galvin, DoS said they have been looking at traffic congestion on the Manor/Parnell St./Cork Road and has funding in place to carry out traffic signal optimisation in order to improve bus travel times through the area. He stated that the 5 axle ban is enforced by the Gardai. He has appointed consultants to look at the water feature in the People's park and will ask the area engineer to check out the condition of Vincent White Road and a contractor is currently working on improvements to the pier at Cheekpoint which are intended to provide long term stability to the structure.

P. Johnston, A/DoS stated that the Council had acquired No. 29 The Glen which is a protected structure and plan to retain the 4 apartments under the buy & renew scheme. He plans to develop the 5 sites in Coxtown but resource restraints have delayed progress and he will come back to Council with Part 8 plans for both social and affordable housing.

Cllr. J. Power enquired if there was any land available in the Ballygunner area for Red Star FC who have no pitch, he is concerned about the traffic problems in Water Street during school times and asked if the Council has met with DeLaSalle management to discuss the issue. He asked if there would be money in the Budget for Monuments particularly to honour the three Waterford singers as previously proposed. He visited the Helping Hand premises and stated they do a great job but as well as a new premises they need a portaloo and could the Council provide one. He looked for the Engineers Report and Remedial Actions for works on Cheekpoint Pier as he has concerns that the works would not be a permanent solution.

Cllr. Griffin asked that the potholes in St. Killian's Place be repaired and that the gully machine be sent to Ferrybank as it hasn't been there for a long while he said that Ferrybank is getting lost and needs to be looked after. He asked when the speed review process commences and could the Glen Road be included. He looked for update on the Flynn site in Riverstown and asked if the Council will get any houses in the development and asked that Chapel Lane be resurfaced as soon as possible.

Cllr. Kiely asked if the completion date for the Tramore Public Realm Works is definite and said it would be useful to update residents of future development timelines/delays via our website. She looked for timeframe for works on the Railway Station in Tramore and asked if the Council would be interested in buying the land for sale in front of the property. She asked has the Active Travel Plan for Tramore commenced and would the footpath survey be included and looked for update on the Grand Hotel.

F. Galvin, DoS said he would be happy to engage with DeLaSalle to discuss proposals to ease traffic congestion in Water Street. He asked Cllr. J. Power to discuss Pier at Cheekpoint with the area engineer who can give specific details. He will pass on the roads issue in St. Killian's Place to the area engineer. The Speed Limit Review will commence in early 2022 so the Glen Road can be discussed then. Chapel Lane is on the list of minor works and should be completed shortly. The public realm works in Tramore are on target but will be subject to weather conditions, the Active Travel Plan for Tramore will commence next year. The questions relating to Helping Hand and the Community Monument will be referred to the relevant sections.

D. O'Murchadha, SEE said the owner of the Grand Hotel when last in court sought an extension of 8 weeks to finish works as per S11 Notice he will be back in court on the 8th November and the Council has to prepare a report of costs of outstanding works and bring to court.

C. Hartley, SEO said they are in discussion with an approved Housing body around the nomination of 24 units in the Riverstown housing development.

L. Grant, SEO said they are working with the Chamber to set up a pop-up Christmas market at the Railway Station with a view to having a permanent market in the future. The windows in the building are away being repaired and will be reinstalled by November. The Council is aware of the site for sale to the front of the building but at this moment would not be seeking to acquire it. She said they have monthly meetings with the contractors of the Public Realm works and a Project Liaison officer is on site to deal with any queries.

Cllr. Daniels asked if we had made an application for Supplementary funding for our Roads stating we have been successful on previous occasions. He asked if we are doing audits on our trees and asked if we could ask the HSE to do one too as one diseased tree could kill numerous trees. He asked if a yellow box could be painted at the junction of Percy Terrace/John's Hill.

Cllr. Bailey spoke about the vacant housing initiative vacanthomes.ie where members make an application for vacant homes in their area, she asked if many applications have been received through this initiative by the Council. She stated that there is a disease in our Chestnut trees and asked if there are plans in place to deal with this. She referred to the water station initiative in our schools and asked if this could be rolled out in the city centre.

Cllr. F. Quinlan noted a number of vacant houses around the Ballybricken area and asked could they be CPO'd and suggested the engineers do a walk through to identify the homes. He welcomed the works to footpaths in the City in 2020 and asked if the same money would be spent in 2021 and do we have the resources. He said all the roads, kerbing, yellow boxes and islands in the city need to be repainted and stated the steel structure in Doyle Street is blocking the footpath and is a safety hazard.

Cllr. Conway looked for update on getting power to the water feature opposite the Majestic Hotel and asked for the removal of unsuitable trees in the Tramore area. He asked for procedure on requesting yellow lines. He thanked all staff for the landscaping at Branch Road and Tivoli and also the new lights on the Doneraile and complimented the Heritage Officer and staff on the Desie Logainm website which is a wonderful resource for schools.

F. Galvin, DoS confirmed he had made an application for supplementary funding and should hear back in the coming weeks. He stated that trees were inspected regularly under the Annual Tree Maintenance Programme, he will look at the junction of Percy Terrace/John's Hill and assess. He said the water stations in schools are indoor but will look if funding would be available to extend the network to outdoor stations. He stated the Footpath Programme is a 5 year project and significant money has been spent this year on lines and bollards but Covid restrictions and availability of contractors have delayed some works. He is making progress with connection to the waterfall opposite the Majestic Hotel and acknowledged the thanks to the teams and will pass on. He would welcome input from Councillors regarding yellow boxes.

P. Johnston, A/DoS stated they don't solely rely on the vacant homes website and they undertake their own surveys through Buy & Renew and Lease & Repair schemes. He will come back with number of applications for vacant houses to Councillors. He stated the temporary steel structure in Doyle Street is needed to support a property which is part of a legal case.

Cllr. O'Sullivan also welcomed the new lights on the Doneraile and thanked the staff for their great efforts, she is delighted to see the footpath works on Priest Road. She asked for flashing lights to be erected at entrance to Tramore as the speed limit is reduced to 60km and looked for update on the pump park and adult exercise equipment for Tramore.

Cllr. Roche asked for update on Williamstown Glen, asked when will the middle section of the Riverwalk be complete, stated the lights on the median between the Clock Tower and Plaza are not working and asked how long is the Keeverflow car park lease. She asked could a traffic signal be installed at the Tramore Road roundabout and also the roundabout at Oscars needs to be looked at as cars are taking a shortcut through Ballinakill Downs and causing congestion during rush hours. She suggested looking at a one-way system at Wilkin Street/Lower Newtown/Percy Terrace which would relieve traffic congestion

in the area. She looked for update on lights in the People's Park and asked have the Councillor's any role in the Cycle Scheme which went out for public consultation.

Cllr. Hearne asked if the Council had plans for a planting scheme and suggested joining up with GIY. He stated there were some instances in Kilcohan with bonfires and asked are teams in place to deal with these instances over the Halloween period. He also asked if a scheme could be put in place to keep the Knights Templar graveyard in order and also the graveyard on the Old Tramore Road which has been boarded up for years and needs to be cleared.

F. Galvin, DoS said he will look at the speed signs on the Tramore Road and discuss the pump park and adult exercise equipment with Cllr. O'Sullivan. He stated work is currently underway on the Riverwalk with a completion date of mid November. He will check with the maintenance contractor regarding the lights on the Quay and will revert with the lease end date for Keverflow. He will be looking at the Tramore Road roundabout junction in conjunction with the greenway plans. Lighting of the People's Park would cost €160K and it's a budgetary consideration. The regional Bicycle Scheme went out to public consultation and is now closed and back with the NTA for review, all submissions will be taken into account. He said his team is working with the Fire Service and Gardai to ensure public safety over the Halloween break and he would be happy to engage with GIY to discuss planting. He will talk to the Conservation Officer regarding the graveyard and will look at the possibility of a one-way system at Wilkin Street and Ballynakill Downs.

Cllr. Mulligan asked does the Roads Department have input into planning applications stating there is an application for 60 Apartments near Ballinakill Downs and a traffic management plan needs to be considered.

F. Galvin, DoS stated the Roads Department are consulted on the traffic management plans for planning applications.

4. Planning: Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended Planning & Development Regulations 2001 as amended Part V111: for approval
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14 No. Social Housing Scheme dwellings at Fountain Street, Ferrybank

A. Lennon, EE gave details of the public meeting at the site on the 11th October, 2021 stating here were no material amendments to the proposed scheme, however, there will be increased car parking provision and retention of an existing Lime tree on site.

Cllr. Hearne proposed the Part VIII and Cllr. Conway seconded.

Cllr. E. Quinlan thanked the Housing Department staff for meeting with the residents and he is happy that there is now 21 car parking spaces and the Lime tree is being replaced. He has concerns as to the lack of green spaces and asked Housing if they would allocate the bungalows to older persons on the housing list.

Cllr. Griffin, concurs with Cllr. E. Quinlan and said the residents had a chance to voice their opinions and going forward public consultation is very important. Important older people in the area are asked if they would like to move to these units and release their 3 bed homes to families on the waiting list.

Cllr. F. Quinlan said it will enhance the area and there is a need for housing.

Cllr. Kelly said there has been a lot of consultation with the residents but he will be voting against the development. He said the development is too dense and is being built on a busy road, no green area for children and traffic flow onto a busy dual carrigway is too dangerous and car parking is an issue.

Cllr. Daniels met with residents and business people in the area who registered their concerns. He would like to see earlier consultation with residents.

Cllr. Kiely is in support of the development noting we are in the middle of a housing crisis.

The Council resolved to approve the proposal to construct 14 No. Social Housing Scheme dwellings at Fountain Street, Ferrybank as recommended in the Chief Executive's report and as circulated with the agenda. Cllr. J. Kelly noted that he was not in favour of the proposed development and wished to be recorded as such.

5. Taking in Charge – Completion of Process - Road linking L5521 Kilbarry Road to L5522 Lacken Road, Waterford (LIHAF)

F. Galvin, DoS noted that a report had been circulated with the agenda containing a proposal to take in charge the local road between the L5521 and L5522 which had been constructed under the LIHAF scheme. He outlined the statutory process that had been undertaken, that the proposal had been advertised in accordance with the provisions of S.11 Roads Act 1993, on 3rd August, 2021. No submissions or observations were received within the requisite period and he recommend that the road listed be declared to be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Subsection (1) (b) (iii) of the Roads Act 1993.

This was proposed by Cllr. Conway and seconded by Cllr. Hearne and agreed by all.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Motions

Motion in the name of Cllr. Mary Roche

“ That this council will plan and undertake an extensive programme of tree planting in Waterford City ”

Reg. No. 60 (dated 30th September, 2021)

Cllr. Roche proposed the motion, seconded by Cllr. Daniels and all Councillors commended Cllr. Roche for bringing the motion to Council.

Cllr. Kiely proposed to make an amendment to the motion to add '*an extensive predominantly native tree planting and tree maintenance in Waterford City*' this was seconded by Cllr. O'Sullivan and agreed by all.

9. AOB

Cllr. Fitzgerald raised an issue with a site in Cheekpoint using heavy machinery which is seriously damaging existing dwellings in the area and asked if the Council can intervene.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that the Chief Executive responded to Cllr. Fitzgerald stating it's not an issue for the Council, it is a matter between the developer and owner and is a private matter.

L. McGree, SP confirmed that the Planning Department have an open enforcement file on this matter and is following it up.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____