

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting of the Metropolitan District held by MS Teams on 20th December, 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	Cllr. Adam Wyse

Officials in attendance: Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Services
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
Mr. L. McGree, Senior Planner
Ms. C. Hartley, SEO Housing
Mr. J. Gallagher, EE Roads
Ms. N. Keating, SEE, Roads
Ms. A. O'Shea, Corporate Department

Meetings Administrator carried out the roll call for attendance.

Vote of Sympathies/Congratulations:

Votes of sympathy were expressed to the families of the late Michael Kelly, Noel Jackman, Peter Halligan, Bridget Power, May Power, Jack Williams and David Power.

Vote of congratulations expressed to Barry Keane on running the fastest 5K at the indoor National Title. Harry Colbert on representing Ireland in the U17 and Ruth Heery on representing Ireland in the U23 Cross Country Championships.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 18th November, 2021 were proposed by Cllr. Daniels seconded by Cllr. Wyse and agreed by all.

Minutes from the Metropolitan Special Meeting held on 7th December, 2021 were proposed by Cllr. Daniels seconded by Cllr. Wyse and agreed by all.

Minutes from the Metropolitan Special Meeting held on 8th December, 2021 were proposed by Cllr. Daniels seconded by Cllr. Wyse and agreed by all.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Conway updated the Councillors on the Planning Application in Tramore which he raised under AOB at the meeting on the 18th November. He was contacted by the Director and Senior Planner who advised that he should lodge his concern with An Bord Pleanála and he advised that he did lodge a submission with the Bord.

Cllr. Kelly asked for update on the opening of the toilets and gates at St. Otteran's Cemetery. F. Galvin stated that the toilets which had been closed during the Covid lockdown were now opened during funeral times but for operational access and safety reasons the gates were not open to public vehicular traffic.

Cllr. Roche asked if there could be some formal way of answering Councillor's questions. H. Dunphy said she will have a look at Decision Time and ascertain if there was a way to upload the answers.

3. Reports

Cllr. Daniels asked if the safety measures and landscaping at Cove Lane could be completed and asked for a hatched area at the Cove Bar entrance. He asked for the traffic direction on Simons Lane to be reversed so traffic could exit onto the Waterside and asked if there were proposals to extinguish the left turn at Bake House Lane to Lady Lane.

Cllr. Conway asked if a confidential briefing session for Councillors on the update for the North Quays could be held early in 2022. He asked if the sightlines on the former N25 junction at Orchardstown could be looked at as there were concerns about traffic safety at the junction.

Cllr. Power asked if there is a report being prepared on the foundations at Cheekpoint Harbour and thanked the Council for recent works to the harbour. He looked for update on the Kilbarry arboretum, the Traveller Needs Report and Wetlands Survey. He asked for updates on the parking/noise/light pollution at Horse Quarter, the footpath and bus stop to the beach, speed limit report for the village of Dunmore East and link road to Killea.

F. Galvin, DoS said he will look at the Cove Lane issues and bring forward any necessary improvements, he would not be in favour of encouraging additional traffic into Simmons / Grubbs Lane as it was very narrow and there are no footpaths and indicated that there are no immediate plans to change traffic direction on Bake House Lane. He acknowledged that further works will be required at the R680 / R682 junction at Orchardstown and that this will be considered in 2022. With respect to the pier at Cheekpoint, he stated that a full engineering survey had been undertaken prior to the works, that a further phase of work was planned for 2022 to complete the project and a grant application was being made to the Department. With respect to the trees, it is intended to develop a Tree Management Policy for consideration by the SPC which would revert to Council in due course. The parking at Horse Quarter is limited with not many options and he is awaiting a Report from a Lighting Consultant on the light overspill complaint. The Council will be commencing an overall Speed Limit Bye-law review in 2022 and matters relating to new or revised speed limits will be considered as part of that process. There is an objective to construct a link road in Dunmore East from the Killea local road to the R684 but at present there are no resources to progress this.

The Mayor asked that the Councillors be briefed on the North Quays & Michael Street developments on a regular basis as it is such an important development for the city. It was noted that the Chief Executive had committed to briefing the Council on this matter in early 2022.

C. Hartley, SEO stated she will check the Traveller Needs Report and revert with figures to all Councillors.

Cllr. Griffin asked would there be any funding to hold a festival in Tramore Town Centre as due to the urban renewal works retail has struggled and it needs a lift. He asked if works to the steps on the Pier in Tramore have been completed and stated that the land at the junction of the Tramore Road R675/Cork

Road R680 is very unsightly and needs cleaning and suggested that it would be ideal to develop into a roundabout.

Cllr. Kelly looked for update on the one-way system planned for Hennessy's Road and asked which direction the traffic would be going and update of the planning application for the former Little Sister's site. He asked why there was such a difference between the 721 Housing applications received and the 422 validated and 370 approved and was it because of staffing shortages. He looked for an update on the 'Walk of Fame' which was approved by Council and went to the relevant SPC for further consideration.

Cllr. P. Fitzgerald stated that he had to make a call to Water Services to go to Passage East but was told that the Department were understaffed due to retirements and sick leave and he asked were there any plans to appoint extra staff to the team. He asked that the street lighting at Seaview Park be fixed following construction works and for details on the distance of the footpath from the Convent in Dunmore East. He noted that grant aid was available for thatched houses but stated the application was very difficult and asked if it could be made easier to encourage more people to apply.

F. Galvin, DoS said he will ask the Bio-Diversity Officer to revert to Councillors with the Wetlands Survey. He stated that works to the Pier in Tramore are part of a multi-annual programme and further works are due next year. He stated the Active Travel Team is working on proposals for changes to junction at Tramore Rd/Cork Rd which will be brought to Council for consideration. The Council will be engaging with the Developer of the Little Sister site regarding the one-way system on Hennessy's Road and the issue with staff shortages in Wastewater is temporary due to Covid. He will revert with footpath details in Dunmore East. He stated it is the intention to hold some form of event in the Spring for Tramore to mark the opening of the town centre following the urban renewal works.

N. Keating, SEE said she has been in contact with the developers at Seaview Park and work will commence shortly to fix the cables

C. Hartley, SEO stated that there is a 12 week statutory period for dealing with Housing Applications which is being upheld and said there are no staffing issue in that Department. She will update the Councillors on the 'Walk of Fame' following discussions with the Cultural SPC.

Cllr. Barry asked if an audit could be taken of the public lighting on the Outer Ring Road as there are a number of lights not working. He asked if the Council had any consultation at planning stage for social housing developments stating that the apartments in the development in Bounds Court have 2 flights of steps to front door which would not be suitable for both young families and elderly people. He asked for update on the one-way system and footpaths on Meeting House Lane, railings at the Yellow House and pedestrian bridge in Waterside which is closed. He asked what was the rational having a property in a retirement village on CBL.

Cllr. Bailey asked if the traffic light sequence turning right at the junction of the Tower Hotel could be looked at following the closure of Bank Lane & Mall Lane. She looked for update on the public lighting on O'Reilly Road stating that the trees are blocking the lights. She welcomed the proposal to plant 1,500 trees in the John's River-Cherrymount area and asked if the Bike Hire Scheme could be discussed in Secondary schools to encourage students to use and help avoid traffic congestion.

Cllr. Murphy raised concern in relation to Winterval and the direction it is taking stating it is moving away from free family events and is more commercial. He asked if the event could be looked at for next year to allow all families enjoy without too much cost.

F. Galvin, DoS said he will ask the SEE to look at public lighting outages on the Outer Ring Road and issue with trees blocking public lighting at O'Reilly Road. He is currently looking at footpaths at Meeting House Lane and stated the pedestrian bridge at Waterside is temporarily closed due to safety concerns and he is awaiting a specialist engineers report with recommendations. The traffic light sequence at the Tower Hotel is at optimum rate, is being monitored and kept under review. The Bike Share Scheme docking stations are currently being installed and will commence early next year and he will bring up the promotion of the scheme with the NTA. With respect to Winterval, he will ask the Economic Development Department to organise a review of the event for presentation to Council. He will talk to the Planning Dept about the railings at the Yellow House.

C. Hartley, SEO stated that Housing will take properties into account at Bounds Lane while allocating tenants. She said that the property on CBL is in Havenwood retirement village and is a long-term lease and is as a result of social housing needs for that cohort of people.

Cllr. Mulligan looked for more information on the 27 units at Newgate Street and units at Butterfield Drive Carrickphierish asking how many affordable units were available for purchase. He thanked the Council for the works to Farronshoneen Park and asked if works to the football pitch could commence before the Spring. He concurred with Cllr. Murphy regarding Winterval and asked that a meeting be held in the new year to discuss. He asked if the sword in Bailey's New Street could be moved to Cathedral Square and looked for update on the Failte Ireland grant aided parasols due in November. He referred to a feasibility study on the Greenway to the Blueway and stated that the area on the Greenway at Mt. Congreve would be an ideal location to develop a berth to link up with the Blueway.

Cllr. Roche said she welcomed the bike rental scheme and asked if there would be a Phase 2 as areas beyond the hospital on the Dunmore Road, at the Bus and Train Station and Ferrybank are not being catered for. She asked if the parks in the city could be cleaned up as they are neglected and asked if there was a long-term plan for the parks. She supported Cllrs. Murphy and Mulligan regarding Winterval and stated that we need to look at Christmas lights along the Quay and bridge area. She asked for a schedule of sign cleaning and looked for numbers of people sleeping rough stating that we are obliged to provide a safe place for everyone.

Cllr. E. Quinlan asked if the Council could engage with the residents of Doyle St./Mount Sion Avenue/Newport Terrace to discuss possibility of a one-way system in the area. He referred to the new footpath at Pickardstown stating that cars are parking on it and could action be taken to prevent this. He asked if the Doneraile in Tramore could be looked at to develop an amphitheatre for outdoor performances.

F. Galvin, DoS said he would pass on the relevant questions to the Economic Development Dept for response. The Mayor said he was not happy that a representative from Economic was not present at the monthly meetings and asked that a senior person from Economic attend all meetings to answer questions.

F. Galvin, DoS said it is the intention to install astro-turf sections shortly at the goal mouths on the pitch in Farronshoneen to deal with the wear and tear issues. With respect to the public bicycle hire scheme, docking stations will be installed on both the North and South Quays as part of the overall development plans and the scheme will be reviewed on a regular basis and further extensions considered. With respect to proposed one-way systems at Doyle St./Mount Sion Avenue, this was originally proposed as part of the then plans for Michael Street and in the context of potential new plans being brought forward it might be considered premature to look at this until such time as these plans were finalised. The new combined footpath / cycle path at Pickardstown is not yet completed and while it would normally be a matter for the Gardai to deal with illegally parked cars in the area, the Council will consider other options. He will prepare an overall report on plans for the city parks and revert to Council.

C. Hartley, SEO said they would have a number of rough sleepers who are not engaging with services, but they are monitored by the Homeless Action Team, and they are not outside of support. She said the units at Newgate Street are in the former ERS site and the units in Butterfield Drive are not affordable schemes.

Cllr. Kiely asked if directional signs could be put in place to direct traffic to the business's in Tramore Centre following works and changes to traffic direction. She concurred with Cllr. Griffin for a festival to take place in Tramore Centre but asked that the residents be consulted and have their voices heard. She welcomed the bike rental scheme and asked if there were other ways of promoting the consultation process to allow more people have their say. She agreed with previous speakers regarding Winterval and said the trading rates need to be reduced to allow more traders participate. She also asked for a meeting to be held early in the New Year to discuss Winterval.

Cllr. Hearne asked if Templar's graveyard could be put on the regular maintenance list and could the green area at Ardmore Park, Ballybeg be included in the tree planting programme. He asked if the

Department of Education has been contacted regarding the use of lands at Ballybeg for the provision of a new school and could a dereliction order or CPO be put on the Yellow House as it is an eyesore.

Cllr. F. Quinlan concurred with all speakers regarding Winterval and asked that Christmas lighting on the bridge, Quay, Mall and Ballybricken be looked at for next year. He asked for outdoor showers to be erected by the toilets in Tramore and stated the gym equipment in the People's Park needs to be upgraded. Cllr. L. O'Sullivan asked which approved housing body is involved with the new houses being built in Riverstown and suggested the erection of plastic bollards on the footpaths in Pickardstown to prevent cars parking.

C. Hartley, SEO stated that Cluid are the approved housing body for the houses in Riverstown and the Council will nominate from their housing list to be tenanted by early next year.

F. Galvin, DoS said he has asked the project engineer to talk to the contractors regarding new directional signage for Tramore Centre. He said there will be an event planned to mark the opening of the town centre in Tramore. The bike rental station is an NTA scheme, but he will take up the matters raised when reviewing. Templars Graveyard is in private ownership, but he undertook to speak to the Heritage Officer regarding access and maintenance. The tree planting initiative is initially planned as a pilot scheme for Cherrymount in 2022 and he would be willing at extending the scheme to Ballybeg and surrounding areas as funding and resources allowed. He will look at repairing the existing outdoor showers in Tramore but also noted that Failte Ireland have allocated grant aid for new outdoor water activity centres for Tramore and Ardmore which would include hot and cold showers, changing rooms and lockers. He will have a look at the gym equipment in the People's Park. He said he will look at putting plastic bollards on the footpath in Pickardstown but said that they tend to get damaged by lorries.

Cllr. Roche asked if F. Galvin was the City Centre Manager stating the city needs more focus and resources and it needs clarification.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that he's not the City Centre Manager per se and that responsibility for the City centre rests as a combine with the Chief Executive and Management Team. He said Senior officials attend District meetings and bring back issues raised to Management team where actions are allocated, and he will take back this issue to next Management team meeting and see how best addressed.

The Mayor said there is concern amongst members that the City is not getting the attention it deserves as a regional capital and asked how that can be addressed as otherwise, we can lose development opportunities. He suggested to hold a workshop to discuss what can be done to resolve this issue.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that the development of the city is a primary focus for the Executive and the larger part of the energy of overall team is concentrated on this area.

E. Mulligan said his worry is that there is not one person responsible for the organisation, coordination and control of the City and this is a weakness and if the city aspires to be a Regional Capital, then we need someone with a singular function to ultimately be responsible for the running of the City.

P. Fitzgerald says we need to focus on the whole county otherwise we are undoing the amalgamation.

The Mayor said it is a discussion should be held early in the new year.

5. Correspondence

Proposed by Cllr. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. O'Sullivan and agreed by all.

6. Motions

None

7. AOB

Cllr. P Fitzgerald asked did the Council finance the building of housing at Riverstown, Tramore.

C. Hartley said it would have been through Government funding and will revert with details.

Cllr. Griffin thanked the Outdoor Staff for all their work during the year and wished them a happy Christmas.

Cllr. Kiely raised issue of Rescue 117 tender which is due for renewal in 2024 stating that we don't want to lose their services. She was in touch with the Dept. of Transport regarding issuing of tenders and was advised that this announcement was a pre-qualification questionnaire to find the minimum requirements for 3 helicopters and fixed wing aircraft.

The Mayor wished all a Happy Christmas and a safe New Year and thanked all Council staff and thanked the press for attending meetings and getting a fair hearing. He wished the people of Waterford a Happy Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____