

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting of the Metropolitan District held by MS Teams on 24th January, 2022 @ 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. Jody Power
Cllr. Davy Daniels	Cllr. Eamonn Quinlan
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. Adam Wyse
Cllr. Joe Kelly	

Apologies: Cllr. Lola O’Sullivan

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. B. Duggan, SEO Economic Development
Mr. C. O’Neill, SEE Roads
Ms. N. Keating, SEE, Roads
Ms. L. Grant, SSO Economic Development
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 Richard Hickey, Heinz Plattner, Michael Dwyer, John Butler, Liam Sadlier, Michael Byrne, Nicholas Quinlan and Maura Somers.

Vote of congratulations expressed to Craig Breen on coming 3rd in the Monte Carlo rally, wished the Ballygunner team every success in the upcoming club All-Ireland final and to Harry Colbert on winning a gold medal at the world U20 Cross Country Championships.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 20th December 2021 were proposed by Cllr. Daniels seconded by Cllr. Kelly and agreed by all.

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 17th January 2022 were proposed by Cllr. Fitzgerald seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all.

2. Matters Arising,

C. Hartley advised that she is clarifying with Department what information is to be shared in the Traveller Needs Report. She advised that Walk of Fame motion has gone to the subcommittee of the Housing SPC which is due to meet in the coming weeks and she confirmed that CALF were the approved housing body for funding for the housing development at Riverstown.

Cllr. Roche asked if a workshop could be organised in the coming weeks to discuss the management of the City Centre. Cllr. Griffin seconded this and it was agreed by all. Cllr. Mulligan asked could Winterval also be discussed at the workshop as an extra agenda item.

Cllr. Kelly stated that as he proposed the 'Walk of Fame' motion that he should attend the sub-group meeting to present his case.

3. Reports

Cllr. Conway asked if the Councillors in the Tramore LEA could be briefed on the plans for the water sports activity centre planned for Tramore. He complimented Economic section on the new windows and doors installed in the old Railway Station in Tramore and looked for update on future plans. He said the wind turbine on the former land fill is not working and conventional power is being used to abstract the gases which is not very eco-friendly and he asked had there been any complaints from motorists using the car park near Splashworld after works on the entrance road by the jet patcher.

Cllr. Barry asked if the committee organising the 2022 St. Patrick's Day Parade would not forget Henry Moloney Snr. who was due to be the chief Marshall at the 2020 parade which had to be postponed. He asked for the 2 trees to be replaced in the Dr. Noel Brown park. He said the recent IBAL survey was very good for Waterford with the exception of a housing estate, and he asked that our Estate Management Team meet with residents of estates and organise and encourage regular clean ups of their estates.

Cllr. Kiely asked for a Safety Audit Workshop to be held in light of discussions at meeting held on the 17th January. She asked for update on signage for Tramore Town Centre business's and Glor naMara and Educate Together school streets. She referred to the Deadsure app and said there was a large number of light outages on the Prom in Tramore. She stated that as €24M has been allocated to Active Travel in Waterford could a learn to cycle track be installed in Tramore like the one in Dungarvan and could some mini bicycle repair stations be piloted on the Greenway with a view to roll out to other areas later.

F. Galvin, DoS, said Failte Ireland has allocated €700K for water sports activity in Tramore and Ardmore and the design of the building is the next phase which will come back to Council for approval by Part 8 in the next few months. He will raise a ticket for the repair of the wind turbine and said that another jet patcher has been purchased which will increase the capacity to respond to road repairs. He will follow up on the 2 trees in Dr. Noel Browne park and is happy to support residents with material to clean up their estates. He said that the Safety Audit Workshop would cross over a number of departments and meeting of the Gardai and Community Safety Partnership will be arranged. Work on the Traffic Management Plan for Tramore is underway and will include new signage. The school streets programme is under review and the City Bike scheme is in progress and should be operational by the end of March. He advised that all lights will be replaced by LED later in the year which will improve reliability but in the meantime all outages must be logged with Deadsure. He will be making a presentation regarding Active Travel allocation within the next few months and will look at installing bicycle repair stations along the Greenway on a trial basis.

B. Duggan, SEO, said that works to the Railway Station in Tramore was to secure the building and there are plans for electrical works to bring back the building to daily use. He will be looking for expressions of interests for suitable use of the building and will keep councillors updated.

Cllr. Kelly stated there is a sunken manhole on Vincent White Road that needs fixing, he looked for update on the traffic survey which was to take place on the Cleaboy Road and report on the crane on the Quay. He asked for the status of people who had been on the housing list for 7-8 years and looked for update on the fountain in the People's Park. He advised the Council that he had been in touch with Henry Moloney Snr's family regarding the St. Patrick's Day parade and they advised that Henry Snr. is unable to take part in this year's parade.

Cllr. Daniels asked for signage on Cove Lane following the new pedestrian link from the Sycamores to Goff's Wood. He asked for details of the terms of the lease on Bolton Street and Waterside carparks and looked for feedback on the Five Cities initiative launched recently by the Government stating that the councillors need to have an input. He stated that City Square has been sold which is giving a vote of confidence to the City.

Cllr. Griffin thanked the Environment Enforcement Team for acting so swiftly on a fly-tipping incident and asked that the bins be reinstated at all beaches due to numbers visiting the areas. He asked for markings to be put on the road at the new Barrack Street pedestrian crossing and looked for update on works to Chapel Lane. He stated there were a number of potholes in St. Killian's Place and Belmont and asked for the gully machine to be brought to all areas in Ferrybank.

C. O'Neill, SEE, said he will check out pothole on Vincent White Road, he will ask the Contractor to put markings on road at pedestrian crossing in Barrack Street and confirmed that Chapel Lane is due to be on this year's Roads Works Programme. He will address the potholes in St. Killian's Place and Belmont and will send over the gully machine to Ferrybank to sweep all areas. He said bins are still in place at beaches and are regularly emptied.

F. Galvin, DoS, stated that the main stays on the crane on the Quay snapped and had to be removed due to public health risk, he is getting a structural engineer to carry out a survey and see if they can be reinstated. He has agreed a programme of works on the fountain in the Park which will be going to procurement shortly, the existing infrastructure needs to be replaced. He will look at signage on Cove Lane and stated that Bolton Street & Waterside will remain as public carparks. There is nothing definite on the Five Cities Initiative but stated that the Waterford Area Metro Strategy will come to Council shortly which will address some issues regarding access to city. He thanked Cllr. Griffin for words of congratulations to the Environment Enforcement Team and will pass on to the team.

N. Keating, SEE said she will carry out a traffic survey on the Cleaboy Road.

C. Hartley, SEO stated that people on the Housing List for 7-8 years would be approaching the top of the list and said that a workshop is being scheduled to discuss Housing List and stock.

Cllr. Mulligan asked if the tarmac on the pavements in Gladstone Street can be removed and the paving reinstated. He asked if S254 Licences can be issued for the Millennium Plaza to allow restaurants on the Quay set up mobile units on the Plaza. He asked can the Blueway be included in Mt. Congreve plans and what are the plans for relocating the maritime mine from its current position on the Quay when works commence on the sustainable bridge to the North Quays. With talks of the Ferrybank Shopping Centre re-opening he asked if the Council have been in contact with Kilkenny County Council stating this would have an impact on our North Quays/Michael plans. He looked for update on the pedestrian/vehicle survey for John Roberts Square and asked when the Metro Strategy was going out for public consultation.

Cllr. Murphy asked if there are any plans to make all car parks and on-street parking contactless. He looked for an update on the 4 proposed Affordable Housing Schemes planned for Waterford and complimented the Environment staff for presentation of the streets which were spotless but said that dog fouling is still a big issue and asked if have issued any fines to offenders stating that it is an issue for wheelchair users.

Cllr. Bailey asked for a speed survey to take place in Knight's Grange with a view to installing speed ramps. She asked if Ballybeg Drive was on the Roads Works Programme and asked for roads markings to be painted on the Old Tramore Road. She looked for update on plans and appointment of a Manager for Mount Congreve.

C. Hartley, SEO, stated that there had been 4 expressions of interest for the Affordable Housing Scheme, and these were all for the Metropolitan area.

C. O'Neill, SEE, said he will talk to Irish Water regarding reinstating the pavements in Gladstone Street. He advised that a second section of the Ballybeg Road will be completed in 2022 and That the Old Tramore Road is not suitable for road markings as it is very narrow in places and will look at erecting appropriate signs. The Mayor supported Cllr. Bailey's request to install ramps on the Kilcohan Road.

N. Keating, SEE, said she will organise a traffic survey for Knights Grange and advised that she is working on developing a cashless App for parking which should be up and running in the next couple of months.

F. Galvin, DoS, said he is working on a Traffic Management Plan for John Robert's Square and would hope to bring proposal forward to Council in March which will then go out for public consultation. He said that the Chief Executive will be briefing the Council with a workshop on the North Quays in the next few weeks and can address issues regarding Kilkenny Shopping Centre. There has been a number of fines issued for dog fouling, stating it is very difficult to catch perpetrators in the act and that it is up to each individual to be responsible for their dogs. He will be launching a campaign in Spring to highlight the issue.

B. Duggan, SEO, stated that funding application for the coastal Blueway was unsuccessful but they would keep pursuing it. He will look at S254 licences for the Plaza but had to be careful of displacing the local cafes. The works on Mount Congreve are on target and the position of Commercial Manager has been advertised.

Cllr. Power referred to his motion regarding a Memorial Arboretum which was passed at the June meeting and asked if we could set up a website allowing people to donate to having a tree planted and work with the Lions Club and Comhairle na nÓg who are currently planting trees. He asked if there was any enforcement for people burning smokey coal as he was in the Williamstown area recently and there was a lot of smoke in the air. He stated that the flashing pedestrian lights near Councillor's Strand are affecting residents sleep and was wondering if a timer could be put in place at night time to leave the lights on fully.

Cllr. F. Quinlan referred to the planning application for a 298 housing development at Couse Bridge where residents of Kill St. Lawrence have concerns regarding the entrance stating that one entrance to the two estates would be too dangerous as it is a very busy road. He looked for update on the communications boards for our parks and playgrounds and asked when will works commence on the Healthy Communities Programme which funds have been received for a playground in Ballybeg, Tennis & Basketball Court in Bernard's Place and Ballybricken Green. He also asked that the disabled parking bays be painted.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked if the footpath between Coxtown to Dunmore East village could be upgraded as it is in poor condition and is regularly used. He asked if works to the slip in Passage East has been completed and stated that a number of housing estates in the County do not have 30kph signs and asked if these could be put in place. He referred to the increase in cost of building materials and asked how this can be dealt with for current housing adaptation grant applications stating that the grant aid funding needs to be increased as part of next year's budget.

C. Hartley SEO stated that funding limits for Housing Adaptation Grants is set nationally, and it has been brought to the Department's attention of the increase in costs. She said the initial quote agreed between the owner and contractor is binding.

F. Galvin DoS said the tree initiative in Cherrymount is a joint programme between the Lions Club, Comhairle na nÓg and WIT and he would need to take up the issue of facilitating individual trees with them. He said that there is a smokey coal ban in place for the City, Tramore and Dungarvan and he can only do spot checks on the distributors of coal but said until there is a national ban in place it will be difficult to police. He said the illumination levels of the flashing lights is standard and he would not be able to change the timings of the pedestrian lights due to a health & safety risk. He hopes to have communication boards in place in our playgrounds and parks by Spring and will refresh the markings on

our disabled parking bays. He asked Cllr. Fitzgerald to supply a list of estates with no 30kph signs stating that only estates with the roads taken in charge would be eligible to have signs erected,

L. McGree, SP said that there is a current application for 99 houses at Couse Bridge/Kill St. Lawrence planning reference No. 21/1164 which is using the existing access road into Kill St. Lawrence. He said submissions can be made up to the 27th January.

C. O'Neill SEE said that the footpath at Coxtown is part of Active Travel, but substantial funding will be needed due to the narrowness of the footpath as land acquisition is needed. He advised that the automatic barrier has been removed at the slip in Passage East and this has been replaced by a de-mountable barrier which will be erected at high tides.

Cllr. Roche asked for update on the Speed Limit Review and date when it will commence. She enquired about the Lighting Consultant's Report on the overspill of light from Horse Quarter in Dunmore East. She asked that the dog fouling bag container at the top of Coxtown be refilled and looked for more details on the €24M received for Active Travel. She asked if the 6' drop down to the beach on the Lower Prom in Tramore could be looked at stating it's a H&S issue and asked if Economic could get in touch with their counterparts in Kilkenny County Council looking for details of developments in the Ferrybank Shopping Centre. She agreed with fellow Councillor regarding the excessive parking in John Robert's Square when the barriers are taken up.

Cllr. E. Quinlan stated there is an excessive amount of dog foul in the Tramore play park and he asked if there was anything the Council could do to prevent dogs entering the area. He asked if there could be an electrical supply to the bandstand in the People's Park like the bandstand in Ballybricken saying that it would encourage musicians to play there. He said he has been asked by business owners in the Applemarket if the bollards could not be put up until 6.00pm Monday to Wednesday which would help their business's. He enquired about the overspend on the Public Realm works in Tramore stating that it was in excess of €700K and asked would the Government or Council have to cover the costs.

The Mayor asked for an update on the ability friendly swings and furniture for the People's Park.

F. Galvin, DoS, said the Speed Limit Review takes place every 5 years and he plans to start the process in Q1 this year stating it is a very complex consultation process involving numerous agencies. He said that there is a statutory level of illumination to ensure adequate level of light for pedestrians and motorists. He will look at putting warning signs up at Tramore play park to discourage dog fouling and will check if there is ducting to provide power to the bandstand in the People's Park. He said he would have to consult with the retailers and traders regarding changing the opening hours of the Applemarket, Public Realm Works in Tramore are not completed yet so overspend cannot be quantified until all works are completed. He has received grant funding to provide one piece of ability friendly furniture for the People's Park, Tramore Inclusion Park and Walton Park Dungarvan.

C. O'Neill, SEE, said he will talk to the Area Engineer regarding the level of sand on the Lower Prom.

L. Grant, SSO, said she will revert to Councillors regarding details of the overspend on the Public Realm Works in Tramore.

5. Correspondence

None

6. Motions

None

7. AOB

Cllr. Griffin asked if they could look at the format of the meetings and perhaps submit their questions before the meeting and receive the answers which then could be debated at the meeting.

The Mayor said that this could be brought up at the Workshop on Standing Orders scheduled for 31st January.

Cllr. Fitzgerald looked for status of the Wetlands Report.

L. McGree, SP, said Wetlands Report is not ready yet and he will follow up on it.

Cllr. Daniels sought clarification on the opening of a right of way which had been the subject of littering and had been cleared up by the Council staff.

F. Galvin, DoS, said as a result of funding for Active Travel they are looking at opening up right of ways which give walking access to schools, shops etc but that consultation would take place between the residents and local communities and the pathways would be surfaced and lit.

Cllr. Kiely asked if a date could be set for the Audit Safety Workshop considering the recent murder of Aisling Murphy.

F. Galvin, DoS, said the executive could facilitate a workshop which would involve coordination with numerous agencies such as the Gardai and Area Safety Partnership.

H. Dunphy, MA, said she will liaise with the Mayor to arrange a suitable date.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____