

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting of the Metropolitan District held in City Hall, Waterford on 17th February, 2020 @ 5.00pm

Present:

Cllr. Breda Brennan Mayor
Cllr. Donal Barry
Cllr. Joe Conway
Cllr. Davy Daniels
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Jim Griffin
Cllr. John Hearne
Cllr. Joe Kelly
Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Eamonn Quinlan
Cllr. Seamus Ryan
Cllr. Adam Gary Wyse

Apologies: Cllr. John Cummins

Officials in attendance: Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Services
Mr. L. McGree, Senior Planner
Mr. J. Sullivan SEO Housing
Mr. C. O'Neill, SEE, Roads
Mr. A. Lennon, EE Housing
Ms. A. O'Shea, ASO

Vote of Sympathies/Congratulations:

A vote of sympathy was expressed to the families of the late Margaret Fitzgerald, Nadia Duggan, Sean Ó Connor, Betty Cuddihy, Nell Foley, Mary Curtin, Elaine Shilton, Michael Partridge and Michael Dwyer.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 15th January, 2020 were proposed by Cllr. Quinlan, seconded by Cllr. Hearne and agreed.

The Mayor asked to amend Standing Orders to bring forward items No. 5 and No. 6 after item No. 1. This was proposed by Cllr. Quinlan, seconded by Cllr. O'Sullivan and agreed.

5. Draft Conservation Plan – Woodstown Viking Site – Commencement of Process

Bernadette Guest, Heritage Officer gave an overview of the Draft Conservation Plan for Woodstown and introduced Neil Jackman from Abarta Heritage who gave a presentation. He dealt with questions relating to costs, tourism potential and land ownership. It was agreed to commence the public consultation following which the matter will revert to council for decision.

6. Roads Works Programme

The Roads Works Programme for 2020 had been considered at a workshop prior to the meeting. The programme, as circulated, was proposed by Cllr. Quinlan, seconded by Cllr. O’Sullivan and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Daniels enquired about maintenance works for the Dunmore Road river walk. F. Galvin DoS stated he had asked the Environment team to assess and revert with a programme of works.

Cllr. Conway asked for progress on the Kilkenny/City boundary, the lorry parked at the Long Haul and identifying owner of the Grand Hotel. F. Galvin, DoS stated he had been in contact with Kilkenny Co. Co. and there was a commitment to improve maintenance works. L. McGree, SP said he is taking action on the lorry parked at the Long Haul and is actively trying to locate the owners of the Grand Hotel.

Cllr. Mulligan stated the cost of the weekly parking of €18 was expensive and looked for a review to reduce to €15 or €16 per week. F. Galvin, DOS stated the weekly parking ticket is being run on a pilot scheme and will review after a few months.

Cllr. Ryan asked has Bus Éireann come back to Council on new routes. F. Galvin, DoS said they are awaiting a decision from the NTA regarding new routes and he will revert once he has an update.

Cllr. O’Sullivan asked about planning permission for the masts on the Grand Hotel and stated the wall on slip in Tramore is moving with each storm and needs attention. L. McGree, SP stated he will review the compliance on planning permission for masts on Grand Hotel (Planning Ref. 13/277). C. O’Neill, SEE said he is meeting with the OPW next week to discuss the wall and will revert to Councillors.

Cllr. Kelly looked for update on the rubbish/dog fouling bins on the Cleaboy Road. F. Galvin, DoS said he will discuss with the Engineer in Open Space to have bins in key locations.

3. Planning

a). Planning Lists already circulated by email – noted

b). Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended Planning & Development Regulations 2001 as amended Part V111 –Completion of process.

(i) 14 No. Social Housing Scheme at Mount Esker, Ballytruckle, Waterford City.

J. Sullivan, SEO stated the Council have acquired the adjacent site which will address the issue of onsite parking. He recommended that Part VIII process be re-commenced, this was proposed by Cllr. Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Kelly and agreed by all.

(ii) 49 No. Social Housing Scheme at Ballygunner, Waterford City.

J. Sullivan, SEO outlined the reports from the Housing Dept. and the Chief Executive’s report setting out that the scheme provides for 49 residential units which supports the policies and objectives of Waterford City and County Council and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Cllr. Mulligan, seconded by Cllr. Daniels proposed that the decision be deferred until the new Development Plan is in place. The proposal for the deferral was put to a recorded vote resulting as follows:

Name:	For:	Against:
Cllr. Breda Brennan (Mayor)		√
Cllr. Donal Barry		√
Cllr. Joe Conway		√
Cllr. Davy Daniels	√	√
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald		√
Cllr. Jim Griffin		√
Cllr. John Hearne		√
Cllr. Joe Kelly		√
Cllr. Eddie Mulligan	√	
Cllr. Jason Murphy		√
Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan		√
Cllr. Jody Power	√	
Cllr. Eamonn Quinlan		√
Cllr. Seamus Ryan		√
Cllr. Adam Wyse		√

This proposal was defeated by thirteen votes against and three in favour.

The matter was put to the meeting and a recorded vote was then taken on the original proposal for completion of the process resulting in a unanimous vote as follows:

Name:	For:	Against:
Cllr. Breda Brennan (Mayor)	√	
Cllr. Donal Barry	√	
Cllr. Joe Conway	√	
Cllr. Davy Daniels	√	
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	√	
Cllr. Jim Griffin	√	
Cllr. John Hearne	√	
Cllr. Joe Kelly	√	
Cllr. Eddie Mulligan	√	
Cllr. Jason Murphy	√	
Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan	√	
Cllr. Jody Power	√	
Cllr. Eamonn Quinlan	√	
Cllr. Seamus Ryan	√	
Cllr. Adam Wyse	√	

- (iii) 22 No. Housing Scheme at Ballynaneashagh, Butlerstown Road, Waterford City.

J. Sullivan, SEO stated that a Traffic Impact Study needs to take place and asked that the Part VIII be deferred until the March meeting which was agreed by all.

4. Reports

Cllr. Griffin asked do people suffering with mental health get the same priority as people with physical disabilities when being assessed for housing. He has concerns for the anti-social behaviour that is happening in Mount Suir and asked could the Council and Gardai consider holding a public meeting to discuss plans for the area.

Cllr. Conway asked about the social housing development in Ballycarnane and the hold up by Irish Water, he enquired as to what contractors are employed to clear Voids, stated that St. Declan's cemetery needs work as is in a state of disrepair and what measures can we do to clean up litter caused by the pigeons in John Robert Square.

Cllr. O'Sullivan supports Cllr. Conway's request for works to be done in St. Declan's cemetery, is looking for Lodges Lane to be made one-way due to traffic safety concerns and is asking for more motion sensors to be put down near the Totem pole to advise dog owners to pick up dog waste, also the pier in Tramore needs to be looked at.

J. Sullivan, SEO said that a medical officer from the HSE priorities applicants and no greater priority is given for physical needs. An Anti Social Behaviour Workshop to include Carrickphierish can be arranged in the next number of weeks and local contractors are used for the VOIDS.

F. Galvin, DoS stated Irish Water are now the Water Authority and it is in their remit to charge appropriately. An extensive survey has been carried out on St. Declan's Cemetery and it is intended to tender our necessary drainage works shortly. He stated that pigeons are wild birds and there is not a great deal the Council can do and he will look at extending the motion sensors for dog fouling.

C. O'Neill, SEE will have a look at Lodge's Lane and look at protecting the cliff area from falling debris.

Cllr. Barry enquired about the apartments planned for the Ryan's pub site in Ballybeg and asked are the Council buying any of these apartments. He also asked when the Council buys apartments do they carry out fire safety audits.

Cllr. Quinlan asked for update on the status of the proposed 5 housing development in Doyle Street and stated that rubbish is being dumped in the gardens of Nos. 42-43 Doyle Street. There are loose horses up in Carrickphierish which need to be removed and O'Connell Street requires maintenance and dog fouling bins need to be installed to cater for the large number of apartment owners who walk their dogs in that area.

Cllr. Murphy asked when the Michael Street development contract was due to commence. Asked when the Better Energy Community Scheme works planned for Richardson Meadows will commence and raised concerns about illegal dumping outside the Civic Amenity site.

J. Sullivan, SEO stated the Council has no agreement to purchase any apartments on the Ryan's pub site other than the Part 5 arrangement. The Council are obliged to comply fully with Fire Cert's on all Council buildings and will secure the site of 42-43 Doyle Street.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that the contractor who removes horses would liaise with the Gardai if there was any trouble or threat, dumping at the Civic Amenity site is monitored and the Council has fined a number of people who dumped waste there. He will considered the issues with respect to the maintenance of O'Connell Street and stated that the standard bins in situ can be used for dog waste.

Cllr. Power enquired if there was a programme in place to replace trees cut down, he asked has a date been set for a visit to Waterford Port, asked about concerns around norovirus in the Suir estuary and there are issues with traffic management at Faithlegg School and asked if the Council would consider acquiring a site adjacent to the school which could be used for a car park. He also asked if the Council is applying for the UNESCO Learning City status which Cork and Limerick are part of.

Cllr. Kelly has concerns about the anti-social behaviour in Carrickphierish and stated that Grouplink have come up with a positive initiative to deal with teenagers in the area and are looking at a leaflet drop and asking for assistance from the Council, he is also anxious that the Housing Department allocate apartments which go up on Choice Base Letting with consideration for the residents in the area.

Cllr. Mulligan stated that the re-routing of traffic on Brown's lane has impacted on the business in the area and may need to be looked at. He also asked about the NTA tender and looked for update on the 2040 Transport Strategy. He also asked what funding was applied for under the National Planning Framework.

J. Sullivan, SEO stated that Grouplink can link in with our Tenancy Management Team. There is strong interest in the apartments advertised on Choice Base Letting for Carrickphierish and he will apply all rules of scheme in allocating apartments.

F. Galvin, DoS advised the Council endeavours to replace all trees cut down but not necessarily in the same location. The norovirus is an issue for Irish Water and suggested the shellfish company contact them. The Traffic Management Plan for Brown's Lane and Mayor's Walk is being implemented in accordance with the Part 8 and when completed shortly will improve traffic circulation and provide additional car parking. The NTA tender has not been awarded as there is significant consultation to be held. He will check re. UNESCO learning city and revert.

C. O'Neill advised that it was intended to put in a pedestrian crossing at Faithlegg School.

L. McGree, SP stated that the urban regeneration funding will fund further projects like North Quays and application for funding has to be in by 31/3/2020. He is actively working on projects such as the extension to Greenway/cycle lanes and cycle/public transport.

Cllr. Fitzgerald stated the flashing lights outside Killea N.S. are not working and asked if the flashing lights at Dunmore East/Faithlegg & Killea N.S. be checked for battery life. He also asked what funding was requested for Cheekpoint and Tramore Pier.

Cllr. Ryan asked for numbers of rough sleepers at present, looked for update on the Rogue Gallery, stated that maintenance of local authority houses should be the responsibility of the Council and not put pressure on elderly tenants especially to look after maintenance. He also stated that the residents of Spring Garden Alley are having difficulty access/exiting due to the issues with illegal parking and they are afraid that should a medical incident arise the ambulance services would not be able get to the injured party.

Cllr. Hearne asked could the Council engage with schools, especially green flag to get involved with safe set down and get parents involved, he also looked for an update on the bicycle hire scheme for Waterford.

C. O'Neill, SEE will check the flashing lights outside the schools mentioned and see if batteries need replacement. No notice of funding for Cheekpoint and Tramore Pier has been received and the maximum funding will be €150,000.

J. Sullivan, SEO stated there are no rough sleepers in Waterford and this is due to the dedicated Homeless Unit which is working in an integrated way with all services. The priority for housing stock is to ensure that we are complying with same standards as private rental properties. Cllr. Ryan asked that Maintenance of housing stock be brought to the Housing SPC.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that the traffic wardens patrol Spring Garden during normal working hours but if there are obstructive parking issues after hours the Gardaí must be contacted. The bike rental scheme will be going ahead in Quarter 3. Cllr. O'Sullivan asked that as Secondary school students have great engagement with climate change could we pilot 3 schools in the city and designate car parks for parents to park and get students to walk to school this would prove that they are serious about climate action. Another idea would be to provide a number of trees and get the students to plant them in areas that are suitable. Cllr. Kelly supports this suggestion. Cllr. Griffin stated that the Council are engaging with the Rouge Gallery and a positive outcome is likely.

5. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and circulated:

Thank you email from Mary Clare Matthews for vote of sympathy for her late husband Johnny Matthews.

6. Notice of Motions

None

7. AOB

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked about the proposed offshore wind farm development planned. He said the public are very concerned and we need to write to Wind Energy Ireland to facilitate a meeting.

Cllr. Hearne & Cllr. Griffin wished to thank the outdoor staff for the great work over Storm Ciara & Dennis and the housing staff for their great work with the homeless.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____