

**COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL**

Meeting of the Metropolitan District held by Zoom on 15th December 2020 @ 5.00pm

Present:

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

Apologies: Cllr. Breda Brennan

Officials in attendance: Mr. F. Galvin, District Manager Metropolitan Area
Mr. I. Grimes, DOS Housing
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
Mr. L. McGree, Senior Planner
Ms. B. Stosic, A/SEE, Roads
Mr. C. O'Neill, SEE Roads
Ms. A. O'Shea, Corporate Department

Vote of Sympathies/Congratulations:

Votes of sympathy were expressed to the families of the late Michael Coppinger, John Hearne, Rita Foley and Kate Fitzpatrick nee Greene.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 16th November 2020 were proposed by Cllr. Kelly seconded by Cllr. O'Sullivan and agreed.

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Special Meeting held on 7th December, 2020 were proposed by Cllr. Kelly seconded by Cllr. O'Sullivan and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Planning

a) Planning Lists already circulated by email – noted

It was proposed by Cllr. O'Sullivan and seconded by Cllr. Wyse to amend standing orders and bring Item 6 before Item 4, agreed by all.

6. Notice of Motions

Motion No 47 (Dated 26th June 2020) in the name of Cllr. Mary Roche (Deferred from July, September & November meetings)

“That a plan to highlight the Ancient Walls of Waterford City be developed and implemented.”

Proposing the motion, Cllr. Roche stated that a plan to highlight the City walls is needed using lighting, flags, walking tours, maps and school tours as our City walls have great historic significance and need to be highlighted and made accessible. The motion was welcomed by all Councillors as an important asset to the city and needs to be highlighted. L. McGree, SP stated that Waterford City is part of the Irish Walled Town Network which gets funding from the Heritage Council. He suggested inviting the Conservation Officer to the next meeting to discuss plans. The proposal by Cllr. Roche was seconded by Cllr. Daniels and agreed by all.

Motion No. 48 in the name of Cllrs. Breda Brennan, Pat Fitzgerald, Jim Griffin, John Hearne, Joe Kelly & Donal Barry (Deferred from November meeting)

“That Waterford City and County Council:

- *sends its solidarity and support to the former Debenhams workers seeking a just and fair settlement from their former employer*
- *reaffirms the Council’s support for workers’ rights, the principle of collective bargaining, and fairness and dignity at work*
- *calls on the Government to implement the Duffy-Cahill report; to legislate to protect workers from strategic liquidations and asset stripping by companies; and to protect collective bargaining agreements*
- *calls for KPMG and Government to immediately engage with the workers and their representatives in the Mandate trade union.”*

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Hearne, seconded by Cllr. Kelly and agreed by all that a letter be sent to An Taoiseach.

Motion No. 49 in the name of Cllrs. Jody Power, Seamus Ryan, Susan Gallagher and Donal Barry (Deferred from November meeting)

“That Waterford City gives honourable recognition to our Waterford City sons, Brendan Boyer, Val Doonican and Gilbert O’Sullivan who gave, and continue to give, huge musical entertainment to Waterford and the world by commissioning a statue incorporating the three in a city location of public significance”

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. Barry and agreed. Motion to be referred to the Housing, Community, Culture, Sport & Recreation SPC for consideration and report back to Procedures Committee.

Motion No. 50 in the names of Cllrs. Jody Power, Seamus Ryan, Susan Gallagher and Donal Barry (Deferred from November meeting)

“That Waterford Council register Waterford City as a centre of life-long learning and educational inclusivity by applying for membership of the United Nations Learning City and agree to continue to mobilise our resources across all sector to maximise the opportunities for lifelong learning for all our citizens. By so doing we fulfil Regional Project Objective [RPO] 182 of the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy for the Southern Region of the National Planning Framework and join Dublin, Belfast, Cork and Limerick Cities in this global forum”.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher and agreed.

Motion No. 52 in the name of Cllr. Frank Quinlan (Deferred from November meeting)

“In light of the Covid-19 pandemic and the importance of outdoor recreation spaces; Waterford City & County Council will carry out a full design of a multipurpose walking, running and cycling track in the People’s Park to cater for all ages and abilities in a safe and controlled environment. Furthermore, WCCC will seek alternative funding streams for the project should the costs be prohibitive from internal resources.”

Proposing, Cllr. F. Quinlan gave a brief outline of his motion stating the Peoples Park had huge potential and that it was a perfect location for schools to use for PE. He said it would be beneficial for all. All Councillors supported the motion but had concerns regarding flooding, lighting and funding and it was agreed that the motion should be sent to the relevant SPC for review. F. Galvin, DoS stated that putting in a full size athletics track as proposed would fundamentally change the character of the Park and noted that there would be other issues with respect to potential flooding and other matters to be consider. He agreed to bring the Motion to the relevant SPC and revert back to the Council.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. F. Quinlan seconded by Cllr. O’Sullivan and agreed to be brought to the relevant SPC for consideration.

4. Reports

Cllr. E. Quinlan raised issues with the repainting of the Grand Hotel, Tramore stating that it was only a smokescreen and was not being prepared for commercial use. He also stated that there is a broadband black spot between Waterford City out to the Halfway house on the Tramore Road and asked for the contractors to be notified and stated that the phasing on the traffic lights at the end of Patrick Street need to be looked at.

Cllr. Mulligan stated there was ongoing safety issues for pedestrians as a result of allowing access to vehicles before 11am in the Barronstrand St./Georges St. area and asked that more drop of/set down areas be facilitated.

Cllr. Wyse raised safety concerns for the bridge leading into Waterside car-park stating that the surface is very slippery and needs to be checked out for safety compliance. He asked had the Housing Department changed policy in dealing with homeless persons as he was informed that a couple were told they could not be helped until they isolated for 2 weeks.

F. Galvin, DoS stated he will have the traffic lights at the end of Patrick Street checked and he will get the bridge in Waterside checked for compliance.

L. McGree SP, said he has been in direct contact with the owners of the Grand Hotel and have agreed a schedule of works to avoid dereliction and stated the Council cannot insist on the building being occupied it’s just the condition of the building and how it presents itself.

I. Grimes, DoS stated that the housing policy had not changed for homeless persons and this was an exceptional case where the couple had returned from Amsterdam and were required to self isolate and there are no self isolation units available.

Cllr. Griffin stated when he went to the Grand Hotel site it looked like the workers were in breach of health & safety and asked could the Council look into this breach. He asked regarding the €250K Tourism Support Grant could the monies be distributed evenly stating that Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens have put great work into the Gardens with Christmas Lights and need to receive their fair share of the grant. He also asked in light of the imminent Homesavers judgment could we look at the planning for sale of bulky goods.

Cllr. Kelly also asked that the support grant for €250K be spread evenly including Lafcadio Gardens and Splashworld. He asked had the junction of Knockenduff Road/Ring Road be made wide enough for vehicles turning and looked for update on the fountain in the People's Park.

Cllr. Fitzgerald stated that 3 families in the Passage area are very concerned because of coastal erosion and asked that we look for funding from OPW to support the cliff face and prevent the houses falling into the sea. He asked that Cheekpoint be dredged as it is heavily silted and stated that the Council purchased lands in Coxtown for housing development which is sitting derelict and needs to be looked at.

I. Grimes, DoS stated he will look at site in Coxtown and revert.

C. O'Neill, SEE stated they have started the process of applying to OPW for funding for coastal erosion. He said that the Port of Waterford looked after the dredging at Cheekpoint and he is looking for funding for the cracked Pier in Cheekpoint. He stated the design of the junction at Knockenduff is standard but will check it out and revert.

L. McGree SP, stated he is awaiting a ruling from the High Court in the Homesavers case but said that the change to retail and bulky goods can be dealt with in the new Development Plan the draft of which is currently being reviewed.

Cllr. Gallagher stated the cycle lanes on the Tramore Road between Ballindud and Gracedieu Manor are in poor condition; the footpaths on Lower Yellow Road are in poor condition and asked had the funding for the resurfacing of the Lower Yellow Road been received from Active Travel Funding. She stated that the fencing on the back strand is falling down and needs to be repaired and enquired about allowing the public attend online council meetings and requested that meeting documents be made available online prior to meeting being held.

Cllr. Hearne raised his concerns for the ongoing litter problem in The Crescent and stated that the Council should tidy it up.

Cllr. O'Sullivan asked what was the timeframe for works on the Grand Hotel to be completed, stated that the skatepark in Tramore is in bad repair and needs investment and asked what are the plans for footpaths in the Newtown Glen area.

C. O'Neill, SEE said he will check out the cycle track and said that funding for the Lower Yellow Road was from Roads budget and will add Lower Yellow Roads to list of footpaths which is done by priority. He will check out the fencing on the back Strand.

F. Galvin, DoS agreed to have the Skateboard Park in Tramore checked and a schedule of repairs and upgrades prepared. He will be coming back to District meetings in February with a Roads Programme for 2021 which will also include list of footpaths for repair. Specialists have looked at the fountain in the People's Park and tenders for new proposals will issue in January. He met with residents of Newtown Glen and is looking at a plan for footpaths from Coast Road to Newtown Glen in the expectation of further funding being made available for footpath measures by the NTA.

H. Dunphy, MA stated that Cllr. Roche's motion in relation to broadcasting of meetings was referred to the Procedures Committee for consideration and will be on the agenda for the January Plenary meeting. Confirmed that the Local Government Act requires for the notification of meeting to include the agenda

for the meeting which is made available on the council website. All other documentation is made available after the meeting has been held.

Cllr. Ryan asked about status of the Greenway between Waterford City and Tramore, stated that Bus Éireann announced enhanced services but Waterford was not included in list of areas, he stated new routes are needed in the Foxwood/Carriganard area. He asked that Ballybeg Road and footpath be included in the Roads Capital Programme as they are in a bad state of repair and asked that the housing allocation on the Management Report be listed separate.

Cllr. Barry asked for update on a recent announcement for a summit to discuss issues in the Gracedieu area.

Cllr. F. Quinlan asked that the traffic signs be cleaned due to build-up of dirt, looked for the disabled parking bays in Ballybricken and Park Road to be repainted.

F. Galvin, DoS said that a tender for the design of the Tramore Road Greenway is being prepared. He noted that the NTA are the bus licensing authority and that they are currently engaged in a new initiative called Bus Connects to plan future bus routes in both regional cities and rural areas and this will go out to public consultation next year. He has noted Ballybeg Road and footpaths, will prioritise the cleaning of traffic signs in the Spring and will look at repainting the disabled bays in both Ballybricken and at the People's Park.

I. Grimes, DoS stated there are no plans to hold a public meeting at this time and that Estate Management are working closely with residents groups in the area. He will review how the housing report is presented.

Cllr. Roche raised an issue of a dangerous tree base at Henrietta Street, asked how the €800K Footpath Programme was going to be managed and asked the Environment Department to do an advertising campaign to ask the public to dispose of used facemasks properly.

Cllr. Conway expressed his disappointment at not receiving word back from Planning regarding the unauthorised development at Cliff House, Church Road and report on the works schedule for the Grand Hotel. He said that the signs indicating safe distance in the Nature Park have not been erected and asked did Waterford apply for the Local Government awards.

L. McGree, SP said he was not familiar with the unauthorised development at Cliff House but would revert to Cllr. Conway. D. Ó Murchadha, SEE met with the owners of the Grand Hotel and is working on a timeframe for works which should be agreed by year end.

F. Galvin, DoS said he will get the tree base at top of Henrietta Street reviewed, he will be bringing the Capital Programme for footpaths to each of the Districts with a prioritised list for discussion. He will talk to our Environmental Awareness Officer to re-activate the campaign to dispose of used facemasks properly and will check up on the signs for the nature park which have been ordered. He will also check the participation in Local Government awards and revert.

Cllr. Daniels raised safety concerns on the Riverwalk and looked for an update.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that signage and gates are being put in place for code of conduct and safe use of the walkway. He will be looking for funding to widen the pathway by the Rugby Club and provide better access. He has not received any representation from residents groups and all comments from individuals have been generally positive.

6. Correspondence

None

8. AOB

Cllr. Griffin and Cllr. Conway raised issue with allocation of the €250,000 Support Grant and stressed that Tramore is tourist driven and needs its fair share of the money.

The Mayor wished everyone a Happy and safe Christmas and looked forward to meeting in the New Year.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____