

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

Meeting of the Metropolitan District held by Zoom on 16th November 2020 @ 5.00pm

Present:

Cllr. Davy Daniels Mayor
Cllr. Donal Barry
Cllr. Breda Brennan
Cllr. Joe Conway
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Susan Gallagher
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. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. Seamus Ryan
Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. Adam Wyse

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
Mr. J. Doyle, A/HIS
Ms. A. O'Shea, Corporate Department

Vote of Sympathies/Congratulations:

Votes of sympathy were expressed to the families of the late Beryl Roche, Maureen Kavanagh, Mary Kelly, Eileen Hickey, Larry Jacob, Gerard Cullinane and Eileen Carney.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 19th October, 2020 were proposed by Cllr. Power seconded by Cllr. E. Quinlan and agreed.

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Budget Meeting held on 5th November, 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
- b) Section 73 Roads Act 1993 - Extinguishment of Public Right of Way Section of Pier Head Road, Ferrybank, Waterford.
Proposed by Cllr. Power and seconded by Cllr. Gallagher and agreed by all.
- c) Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 – New Pedestrian Crossing at Barrack Street, Waterford –Final Report.

F. Galvin, DoS presented a report to the meeting on the S. 38 process. He noted that there had been a number of objections from traders in the area over the potential loss of car parking spaces and he pointed out that there was no way to progress a crossing and achieve the necessary road safety standards without the loss of parking. A decision on how to proceed was a matter for Council.

Councillors raised concerns about the loss of parking and the impact on businesses, pedestrian safety, the engagement with businesses and residents. It was agreed to defer the matter until the January Council meeting and allow for further engagement with business and residents to see if there was an alternative solution.

It was proposed by Cllr. O’Sullivan and seconded by Cllr. Roche to amend standing orders and bring Item 5 before Item 4

5. Presentation by Joe Lavin NBI - Broadband Rollout

The meeting was joined by Joe Lavin, Chief Commercial Officer and Billy Manley of NBI who a presentation on the planned rollout of the National Broadband Ireland network both nationally and for Waterford City and County the main objective of bringing high speed broadband to every premises in Ireland regardless of how remote or rural. With respect to Waterford he stated that the detailed surveying and planning for the network had been completed this year and that it was intended to commence construction of the network in Waterford in early 2021. He said that €59M would be invested in Waterford with works to connect at estimated 14,000 premises.

Councillors asked a number of questions about the project timelines, network speeds and access. They thanked Joe for presentation and welcomed the news of commencement of works.

4. Reports

Cllr. Ryan asked about a proposed City to Tramore greenway, asked if vacant houses purchased by the council could be put back into stock, stated CBL refusals numbers are high and asked for update on his ongoing issues with new bus routes.

Cllr. Murphy enquired if money not spent in the current Roads Works Programme could be used next year, he welcomed the Government investment in North Quays and asked what the plans were for the Railway Station and how many platforms were planned for the new Transportation Hub.

Cllr. Quinlan asked was there any regulations for e-scooters stating that they are a danger to pedestrians he asked if sign language signs could be erected in play parks to help all children communicate and play together.

F. Galvin, DoS said funding has been received from the NTA to appoint consultants to design a quality greenway from Waterford to Tramore. He will talk to Bus Éireann about the bus routes but noted that COVID had delayed the progress. He stated e scooters were motor propelled vehicles so would need to be insured and taxed and enforcement was a matter for the Gardai. He will look at erecting sign language signs in play parks and asked the Councillor to provide more detail. He also stated that work on the detailed sign of the proposed transport hub on the North Quays was ongoing and plans would revert to Council in due course.

I. Grimes, DoS stated that refusals on CBL had come down and there are just 3 refusals for 2020. The majority of vacant houses purchased are put back into council stock.

Cllr. Brennan looked for timeframe for works on the removal of tree outside 46-47 The Village & 34 Ashley Drive, drain cover needs to be replaced outside 102 St. Herblain Park, road is sinking at Ashley Grove, Cherrymount, speed ramps at St. Martin's (old school) need repainting, there are no road marking on resurfaced road in St. Herblain Park, poor lighting in St. Martin's Avenue and wooden fence on Ballygunner Hill needs to be replaced and extended.

Cllr. Roche asked what are the plans for the vacant houses in Ballytruckle, could a weir be erected at the mouth of John's River to facilitate small boats, need to re-instate web cam in City centre, looked for update on the rose beds in the park and could an entrance into Wyse Park be installed off Manor Street to open up the park.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked if the new lighting being erected in Horse Quarter is energy efficient, stated that an overgrown hedge on private property in Dunmore is a traffic hazard and needs to be cut back and houses in Passage East are in danger due to soft cliff erosion.

I. Grimes, DoS stated there are plans for P8 social housing in Ballytruckle.

F. Galvin, DoS noted Cllr. Brennan's questions and would refer these to the Area Engineer for attention, he was aware of a previous report on a weir at John's River and will review, the rose beds in the park are to be reinstated and is currently considering the possibility of an entrance from Manor Street to allow more accessibility into Wyse Park.

C. O'Neill, SEE stated he will follow up on the road markings at St. Herblain Park, confirmed that LED lighting is being installed at Horse Quarter, he will talk to the Area Engineer re hedge in Dunmore East and will talk to OPW re cliff erosion.

Cllr. Mulligan looked for an update on the Thomas Francis Meagher monument and the Carlisle Bridge in the park, and also update on the Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy and Retail Strategy. He asked if Housing Department could look at affordable scheme for studio space and living accommodation for

artists and asked if the Fire Department were equipped to deal the proposed high rise apartments planned for the North Quays.

Cllr. Kelly looked for an update on the fountain in the People's Park, on a ramp in Hawthorn Drive, Hillview, S.38 process in Hennessy's Road and proposed new Frisby housing development in Carrickphierish what is the mix of social and private.

Cllr. Hearne thanked V. Butler and C.Murray for all their help with Larchville Lisduggan and Manor St John Combined Residents Group stating that they are representing Waterford in the Pride of Place awards. He was disappointed that the Debenham workers were asked to take down their shelter and stated the Crescent in St. John's Park is like a scrap yard and needs to be cleaned up and would like to see the Pilot project on how we are policed developed.

I. Grimes, DoS stated he will look at options to accommodate artists, fire safety on North Quays is part of the planning process, 10% of the Carrickphierish housing development would be Part 5 for approved Housing Bodies and he is looking at the Crescent, St. John's Park.

F. Galvin, DoS stated works are due to commence on the T. F. Meagher monument next week, he is getting a cost survey done on the Carlisle Bridge with a view to commence works in 2021, he has received a report on the fountain in the park and hopes to have it back working in early 2021 and the drafting of the Transport Strategy is in progress and he will revert to Council with an update at the next meeting. No plans have been received for the development on Hennessy's Road and stated the Council would have significant input into the planning application.

C. O'Neill, SEE advised that there should be no need for speed ramp in Hillview as the new speed limits in housing estates would be sufficient.

L. McGree, SP said the Regional Strategy has been finalised and he will work with members in late November/December.

Cllr. Gallagher said the footpaths in Ballybeg are in a bad state, asked could the timing on the pedestrian crossing on Yellow Road be looked at and stated there is lack of transparency with Waterford Foodbank asking if any members of the Council were on the Board.

Cllr. O'Sullivan welcomed the availability of Wifi on the Prom, looked for update on the unauthorised development at the Pier, welcomed remedial works asked for distance markers to be erected on the Nature Park, stated that the pupils of Ard Scoil na Mara have planted hundreds of daffodil bulbs and looked for finishing date for works in Knockenduff.

Cllr. Barry congratulated all on getting funding for North Quays and asked if the infrastructure and facilities are in place for the 1,000 houses planned for Kilbarry in conjunction with this development. He stated the roof on the Apple Market which cost €1.2M is dirty and needs cleaning and looked for update on footpath in Cannon Street. He enquired if the Waste Disposal questionnaire initiative was still ongoing.

F. Galvin, DoS stated he will look at the footpaths in Ballybeg, funding may be available under the Capital Programme. Timing phases at pedestrian crossings are set to a guideline standard and will check the Lower Yellow Road crossing. An unauthorised development at the Pier in Tramore is the subject of a planning enforcement action, he will consider distance markers for the Nature Park, works in Knockenduff should be completed by mid to end of December and the questionnaire on Waste Disposal is ongoing to try and encourage participation rather than issue fines. He will speak to the Architects regarding maintenance of the roof in the Apple Market.

C. O'Neill, SEE will check out footpath in Cannon Street.

I. Grimes, DoS stated Waterford Area Partnership operate the Foodbank and stated that the Council have no role in it operation and no Councillors are on the Board.

Cllr. Griffin enquired about rural transport, asked could the beach wheelchair be re-introduced next summer and looked for the Metro District/Piltown meetings to be re-activated.

Cllr. Conway enquired about plans for festive lighting in Tramore, the erection of bus shelters on the ring road, Covid signs in the inclusion park and welcomed progress in the courts on proceedings with the owner of the Grand Hotel.

Cllr. Power stated the Crescent in St. John's Park is full of rubbish and needs to be cleaned, asked about a pedestrian crossing at Killea N.S. and enquired about the status of works proposed for Cheekpoint Harbour.

F. Galvin, DoS stated the Rural Transport co-ordinator is looking at the expansion of services. He will look at activating the beach wheelchair for next summer, festive lighting will be erected in Tramore and will look at re-activating the meetings between Metropolitan District and Piltown.

C. O'Neill, SEE stated Bus Eireann are to come back with details of bus shelters as they are looking at reversing some routes. He hopes to apply for funding for Cheek Point Pier but funding is limited and will check re. Covid signage in the Inclusion Park.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Notice of Motions

Deferred to December meeting

8. AOB

It was agreed by all to change of the December meeting to Tuesday 15th December, 2020.

Cllr. O'Sullivan advised that due to COVID the beach wheelchair could not be used this summer but stated it will be available for use next Summer.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____