

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

Meeting of the Metropolitan District held by Zoom on 18th January 2021 @ 5.00pm

Present:

Cllr. Davy Daniels, Mayor	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Breda Brennan	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

Apologies: None

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
Mr. D. Ó Murchadha, SEE Planning
Ms. L. Grant, SSO Environment
Ms. B. Stosic, A/SEE, Roads
Ms. A. O'Shea, Corporate Department

As the Mayor was having technical issues it was agreed that the Deputy Mayor would chair the meeting. A minute's silence was held for the late Pat Hayes former Mayor of Waterford City Council and Anne Tobin wife of Councillor James Tobin.

Vote of Sympathies/Congratulations:

Votes of sympathy were expressed to the families of the late Nigel Pim, Joan Stone, Nicky McGrath, Jack Savage, Ann Flanagan, Stanley Couch, Liam Flynn and Richard & Abbey Power.

Cllr. O'Sullivan asked that everyone would stay home, stay safe and keep to the 5K restriction.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 15th December 2020 were proposed by Cllr. Kelly seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all.

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Reports

Cllr. E. Quinlan said he had received a complaint from a resident who received a letter regarding rent/rates arrears in a window envelope and 'final notice' in red was visible which he said might be a breach of data protection and looked for it to be rectified. He asked could the grass verge on the outer ring road in Tramore be replaced with a cycle lane and be funded by the 2021 Roads Stimulus fund and if spaces could be made available in our galleries to cater for the sale of craft items by local craft producers who have seen their business decimated due to the restrictions.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that Council was currently preparing a tender for the design of a cycle track along Tramore ring road.

I. Grimes, DoS said he will look into the issue with final notices and correct if necessary.

L. Grant, SSO said she will speak to the LEO regarding local craft producers selling in galleries.

Cllr. Murphy asked if the carpark in Kingfisher could be opened to facilitate walkers in the Nature Park, Mac Trans were to remove trees from Belvedere Manor as part of a planning condition 2 years ago but still haven't removed the trees so he is asking Planning to enforce the condition. Contractors working on a social housing scheme on Vincent White Road are parking on Manor Lawn and Willow Terrace despite being allocated parking in the cash & carry car-park on Keane's Road and causing difficulties for local residents and he was looking for a costing for lighting in the People's Park.

F. Galvin, DoS said that the Council had previously engaged with the management of the Kingfisher facility and would do so again but there were issues relating to the security of the premises which were difficult and costly to overcome. He stated that the both the Council and the landowners were to deal with the removal of trees at Belvedere Manor but due to Covid 19 restrictions work had not progressed. The cost of erecting a perimeter lighting scheme in the People's Park would be approximately €120K to €150K.

I. Grimes, DoS said the housing development on Vincent White Road is a PPP project but he will talk to the developer to ensure that workers park in designated parking area.

Cllr. O'Sullivan looked for update on the light outage in Convent Hill, Doneraile Walk, Roselawn and Tramore Heights. She also looked for update on the status of the Waterford Area Partnership Company, the planning application for Gallweys Hill, footpaths and lighting between Newtown Hill and Newtown Glen. She also asked why the works in Main Street, Tramore had stopped as this would be deemed to be essential work.

F. Galvin, DoS stated he is making a funding application for upgrades to the footpath and lighting at Newtown Tramore and will follow up on the completion of the public realm works on Main Street with the contractor.

B. Stosic, A/SEE said the lights have been fixed in Convent Hill, Tramore Heights and Roselawn and that she is waiting on a quote for new lighting bollards on the Doneraile Walk.

I. Grimes, DoS advised that the situation with WAP is very serious and the priority is to safeguard jobs but the onus is with the Board to address all issues.

D. Ó Murchadha, SEE said that 2 invalid applications were received for the Gallweys Hill site and he will revert back to all Councillors with update and submission dates if the latest application is deemed valid.

L. McGree, SP confirmed that the submission timeline is not changing, and the Planning office is open to public on an appointment basis.

Cllr. Barry looked for a copy of the proposed plans for the Cultural Quarter, stated the junction between Sunrise Crescent/Claremont needs to be enhanced for pedestrian and wheelchair users, asked why the Barrack Street pedestrian crossing did not come to the January meeting and looked for an update on the former Waterford Crystal site.

L. Grant, SSO will follow up on the Cultural Quarter Plan and will circulate to all Councillors once available.

F. Galvin, DoS said he will include the junction at Sunrise Crescent/Claremont in the footpath programme and noted that it had been agreed to re-engage with residents and businesses in Barrack Street to see if there was a compromise solution but that the current Covid 19 working restrictions had delayed this. Regardless of the outcome of any consultation, he noted that any pedestrian crossing, traffic calming or other intervention would impact on street parking in the area.

L. McGree SP said he is working with Frisby Construction to make the Crystal building secure and safe and on developing a master-plan for the overall site.

Cllr. B. Brennan looked for update on the tree programme for Cherrymount, lights on the Plaza and more details for plans for 16-18 Barker Street. Yellow lines need to be re-painted on Lower Grange Road, ramp in Cherrymount near the COVID test Centre needs attention due to the volume of traffic going to the test centre, update on footpath outside the Book Centre which is a safety hazard, update on the taking in charge of the Village Ballygunner and asked for signs/stencils to stop dog fouling in the Cannon Street/Barrack Street/Bunkers Hill and Manor Street area.

F. Galvin, DoS stated the tree works programme has been suspended due to current Covid 19 restrictions and any further work is dependent on these restrictions being lifted prior to the prohibition on tree works from March. He said the lights on the Plaza are working but a proposal to replace lights with a colour sequence has not progressed due to budget constraints. He will ask the Area Roads Engineer to look at the ramp at Cherrymount, the footpath outside the Book Centre and repainting the yellow lines in Lower Grange Road and will also ask the Environmental Officer to organise the painting of stencils in the areas mentioned.

D. Ó Murchadha, SEE said that there was a valid application for taking in charge of The Village, Ballygunner and once all reports are received, he will be in a position to make formal recommendation to Council.

I. Grimes, DoS stated that No. 16 Barker Street has 16 apartments on second floor which are all occupied and the ground floors are being used for cultural/community facility which is managed by Corporate and he will get a report and revert to Council.

Cllr. Kelly stated that there are still issues with dog fouling in the area between the Cleaboy Road down to Ballybricken and bins are badly needed. He looked for information on the SEAI grants scheme for households and asked if the Sustainable Energy Masterplan for Clashmore/Kinsalebeg could be considered for housing estates in the City. He has concerns that the junction at Ballycarnane/Knockenduff is too narrow with no filter lane and asked if it could be looked at as a matter of urgency. He also raised concerns regarding the 2020 housing allocation of 241 units while the housing applications for the year were 865 with demand exceeding supply and asked if there was any progressive way forward.

F. Galvin, DoS said a bin survey along the routes mentioned has been undertaken and it would be intended to fill in identified gaps during 2021. He said that a number of grant schemes were available for householders to upgrade the energy efficiency of their homes and details were available through their website. The Energy Masterplan for Kinsalebeg/Clashmore was a local community initiative supported by the Council and done on a very relatively small scale. The Council will be looking at the overall energy efficiency and performance of all their properties including local authority houses with aim of reducing energy requirements and meeting CO2 reduction targets. The Low Cost Scheme at Knockenduff was for pedestrian safety and the controlled pedestrian crossing should enhance vehicular exiting from Knockenduff but he will keep it under review over the next couple of months.

I. Grimes, DoS said that the current Capital project will deliver significant units over the next number of years together with the Repair & Lease Scheme and Voids turnaround.

Cllr. S. Ryan asked for the graffiti to be removed from the wall in Ballybeg opposite WIT, looked for update on works on roundabout at entrance to Ursuline Court, update on Michael Street development,

taking in charge of Greenfields and Kill Saint Lawrence estates and asked that the road between Kill Saint Lawrence and roundabout at Airport Road be included in the Roads Works Programme for 2021. F. Galvin, DoS said he will look at the graffiti and has noted request to include Kill Saint Lawrence road to junction of Airport roundabout in Roads Works Programme.

L. McGree SP said there are a few small issues with title in Michael Street but is working with developers on plans and hopes that a planning application will be lodged shortly.

D. Ó Murchadha, SEE said he has received all of the information required for the taking in charge of Greenfields and Kill St. Lawrence, is progressing with resolving boundary issues at Fairfield Park and these will revert to Council with a recommendation once completed.

Cllr. Mulligan asked for the Retail Strategy to be circulated to all members, looked for update on the cycle lanes from Ballygunner to City Centre and the Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy. He also looked for update on the painting of the Carlisle bridge and affordable accommodation for artists in the Cultural Quarter. He asked why the gym equipment in Farronshoneen Park has been removed and stated the 2 goals there need to be re-sodded and update on the 4 new bicycle parking stations. He also referred to the delay in getting street lighting fixed and asked how the Dunmore East Village web portal was going to be managed.

F. Galvin, DoS said that the provision of cycle corridor from on the Dunmore Road would be priority under the Cycle Network Plan and would hope to progress initial design work in the current year. Refurbishment works will be undertaken this year on the Carlisle bridge, and he will check why gym equipment was removed. The cycle parking stands have been ordered and will be installed shortly. He stated the turnaround for public lights to be fixed is 10 working days and the response performance of the contractor is monitored.

L. Grant, SSO said she would revert with respect to the Dunmore East web portal.

L. McGree SP said the Retail Strategy is not a stand-alone document and will form part of the Development Plan but he will circulate document to all.

I. Grimes, DoS said he is actively looking at accommodation for artists but no decision has been made yet.

Cllr. Gallagher looked for update on a new Biodiversity Action Plan stating that the current plan dates from 2008-2013 and also asked if the air quality monitoring station on Brown's Road is accurate and are there plans in place if warning levels are high.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that the air quality monitoring station is run by the EPA and equipment is of a high standard and regarding warning levels he will take this up with the EPA but in general the air quality is good in the City.

L. McGree SP stated the Biodiversity Action Plan will be reviewed as part of the draft Development Plan which will come before Council to be reviewed in April.

Cllr. Hearne asked for the main road in Ballybeg be included in the Road Works Programme, the residents in Belvedere Manor are frustrated that Mac Trans have not removed the trees as part of their planning permission and is there a plan to deal with dumping and anti-social issues at the Crescent in John's Park.

F. Galvin, DoS said that the main road in Ballybeg will be considered for the draft Road Works Programme which will be presented to the Council in February. The Council had issued tenders for the removal of the trees in Belvedere but cannot proceed due to lockdown restrictions but will commence if restrictions are lifted before the 31st March.

I. Grimes, DoS said his Estate Management team are working closely with the Gardai on all areas where there is anti social behaviour and he would not like to comment on one specific area.

Cllr. J. Conway stated he had been in contact with Killaree Lighting who said they are awaiting on permission from WCCC to put cabling on the Ring Road, Tramore and could this be progressed. He

thanked D. Ó Murchadha for all the work he has done with taking in charge of Monvoy Valley. He supports Cllr. Kelly's reservations regarding the junction at Knockboy/Ballycarnane. He is still looking for directional signage to be erected in the Nature Park and asked has our Housing Department been contacted by a company called Redi Resi and if so are there any plans for housing in the Metro/Tramore area. He also referred to the footfall report for the City Centre for 2020 and asked if there could be a comparative one for 2019.

F. Galvin, DoS said he will talk to the team to push on request by Killaree Lighting and will check up on the signs for the Nature Park which have been ordered.

D. Ó Murchadha, SEE said work is due to finish on the taking in charge of Monvoy Valley but it has been delayed because of the current restrictions.

I. Grimes, DoS said Redi Resi is one of a number of companies who have approached the Council but unless the units offered are vacant he would not be interested but no proposals have been offered to date.

L. Grant, SSO that the 2020 figures were from a new system so there is no direct comparison to 2019 but will circulate the 2019 figures from the old system.

Cllr. Power asked if there is inter departmental communication if issues are noticed. He said that the dog fouling bag containers are empty in parts of Tramore, asked could a template be circulated to communities on the Sustainable Energy Community Masterplan and could the minutes of the Climate Action team meeting held in December be circulated. Could the Litter Picker programme be rolled out to the Community due to schools being closed, he asked for update on the footpaths in Cheekpoint and for the taking in charge of the roads in The Woods, Dunmore East and asked about the lack of take-up for the Community Involvement Schemes. He asked that a letter of congratulations be sent to President Biden.

F. Galvin, DoS said that departments do co-operate with each other, plastic bags are replenished on a regular basis but some individuals take all the bags in one go, he will check regarding the template for the Sustainable Energy Community Masterplan and the minutes of the Climate Action Team are not public it is an internal team which will be part of the overall Climate Action Plan and will report back to the SPC and Council in time. He is not encouraging clean up by groups with the current restrictions in place but will re-engage with schools as soon as restrictions are lifted and will support local communities and tidy towns associations. The Community Involvement Scheme involves the improvement of local small roads and requires a contribution towards the costs for local premises to proceed. The contractor is due back on site shortly to complete the footpath in Cheekpoint.

D. Ó Murchadha, SEE said that all planning conditions are in order for The Woods and it has been sent to the roads for next step in the taking in charge of the roads.

Cllr. F. Quinlan asked if the Council could put a campaign on social media to highlight the problems with dog fouling. He asked that the footpaths in Military Road, Upper Yellow Road and Lismore Park be put on the Footpath Programme, could more signage be put up on the Greenway advising users to walk on the left and to observe the code of conduct and could a bus route be considered to bring people who don't have access to cars from Lismore Park to the WIT campus car park allowing people access to the Greenway.

F. Galvin, DoS will ask the Area Engineer to take a look at the footpaths and prioritise as required. There are code of conduct signs on all the Greenway access points and it would be matter for a bus company to make an application to the NTA for a licence to service the WIT Carriganore car-park.

Cllr. P. Fitzgerald looked for update on the public lighting in Horse Quarter, asked when will the Roads Works Programme for 2021 be discussed and looked for details on the costs of operating the City Marina. He asked if the gas boiler repair service was still operational and was there any developments on the 5 vacant sites in Coxtown owned by Waterford Council.

F. Galvin, DoS said that the lighting for Horse Quarter is part of the second phase of upgrade works which is planned for this year, a Workshop on the Road Works Programme will be held in February and if he has any submissions to email the area engineer so they can be listed. The Marina is run on a small

operational profit with berthing fee receipts €70K-€80K approx. per annum and operational costs of €50K-€60K approx. per annum.

I. Grimes, DoS will revert directly to Cllr. Fitzgerald.

Cllr. D. Daniels asked could the roads in housing estates be included in the Roads Works Programme, he looked for update on the tree cutting programme stating that there are a lot of overhanging branches which are dangerous, he raised the issue of dumping in the Ballygunner area and asked for signs to be erected, looked for an update on the Ard Ri Hotel site and update on the vacant house in Viewmount which was CPO'd.

F. Galvin, DoS said he hopes to have the Roads Works Programme Workshop in February. The Dunmore Road was on the Tree Programme but due to current restrictions work has ceased but he will go back and review the programme once restrictions are lifted taking into consideration the tree cutting season. He said that dumping in Ballygunner is an ongoing issue and signs have been erected and perpetrators will be pursued.

L. McGree SP said he is not aware of plans for the Ard Ri site but said it is on a prominent site and may form part of the North Quays plans.

I. Grimes, DoS will revert re. the vacant house in Viewmount.

Cllr. J. Griffin said the lighting is still out in Riverstown and could Killaree Lighting be contacted also the lights are out on the helicopter memorial. He said the works on Main Street are deemed essential and should continue. He concurs with other Councillors regarding the junction at Knockenduff/Ballycarnane and stated that something needs to be done. He said a plan needs to be put in place for car parks at beaches ahead of the summer due to the number of people holidaying at home.

F. Galvin, DoS will talk to Killaree Lighting to discuss lighting issues and will check the lighting at the helicopter memorial. He is working on beach byelaws and these will be on the agenda for the next SPC meeting.

4. Correspondence

None

5. Motions

None

6. AOB

Cllr. D. Daniels asked to be associated with vote of sympathy for Pat Hayes and Ann Tobin.

Councillors were reminded that the Annual Statement of Donations had to be returned by 31st January 2021.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____