

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting of the Metropolitan District held by MS Teams on 15th November, 2021 @ 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. Lola O’Sullivan
Cllr. Davy Daniels	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Eamonn Quinlan
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. Joe Kelly	Cllr. Adam Wyse

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. C. O’Neill, SEE Roads
Ms. N. Keating, SEE, Roads
Mr. J. Murray, SE Active Travel
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 Maurice Gavin, Fintan O’Byrne, Matthew Lardner, Denis Frawley and Peg Griffin.

Vote of congratulations expressed to Kelyn Cassidy on his achievements at the world boxing championships in Belgrade. Brian Jacob, Lyons Club on their successfully tree planting launch at the Mercy Convent and to all the Tidy Towns groups in Waterford on achieving gold and silver medals in the recent Tidy Towns national competition.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 18th October, 2021 proposed by Cllr. Kelly seconded by Cllr. Daniels and agreed by all.

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Budget Meeting held on 18th October, 2021 proposed by Cllr. Mulligan seconded by Cllr. O’Sullivan and agreed by all.

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Reports

Cllr. Barry looked for update on the development of apartments on the Little Sisters site and asked about the lease term and rent costs. He also asked if the apartments were for the elderly and expressed some reservations due to the steep gradient of the site and the steps to access the building. He also asked for a solution to prevent flooding in Poleberry from Ballytruckle following heavy rainfall and if the contractors resurfacing the roads could ensure that the manholes are not surfaced over. He asked if the 3 pieces of land at the top of Castle Street could be developed and planted, and he looked for update on switching on the pedestrian lights at the Odeon Cinema junction in Poleberry.

Cllr. Murphy asked if Wyse Park and St. John's Priory could be cleaned up stating it is in a very historic part of the City. He also enquired if the municipal cemetery in Kilbarry was being privatised.

Cllr. Mulligan looked for update on the resurfacing of John's Avenue and the painting of Carlisle Bridge. He stated the City Centre has challenges with vibrancy and suggested the development in Michael Street should have affordable houses and asked if this was a possibility. He looked for more set down/pick up areas throughout the city and enquired about the location of 27 units being developed under Part 8 in Newgate Street.

C. Hartley, SEO stated the timeline for lease of the units in the Little Sisters site is 25 years and she will come back with the cost of rent. She noted Cllr. Barry's concerns regarding access to site and said that a lift is being installed in the main building which will give access avoiding the 30 steps. She will talk to the delivery team regarding the proposal for affordable houses in the Michael Street development and has no detail on the units in Newgate Street.

F. Galvin, DoS stated the clean-up of Wyse Park and St. John's Priory is on the current list. With respect to Kilbarry Cemetery, he noted that there was no intent by Council to privatise the cemetery but as advised at a recent Council workshop, a proposal had been made to the Council in the context of a potential private crematorium development at Kilbarry, and that the Council would be undertaking a review of its overall land holdings in the area and would revert to Council in due course. With respect to Carlisle Bridge, he noted that the project is more complex than originally intended and that the Council has had to employ the services of a Conservation Architect to advise on the repair and painting of the bridge. Pending completion of his report, the work will be tendered and should commence early in 2022. He will consider the addition of a number of set down/pick areas within the city centre.

C. O'Neill SEE will check out the flooding in Poleberry and stated the contractors come back after surfacing and clean and raise the gullies. He doesn't have a date yet for the pedestrian crossing near Odeon Cinema and will consider resurfacing of John's Avenue for next year.

Cllr. Griffin asked if the Council would consider working with local committees to maintain toilets at beaches and keep them open longer especially at the Pier in Tramore and in Woodstown, he suggested bringing it to the Environment SPC. He asked if the gate at entrance to Kilbarry cemetery could be opened at certain times to allow elderly people visit their graves, he also asked if the toilets could be opened especially during funerals, regarding the pedestrian crossing in Barrack Street he asked when the road markings were going to be painted.

Cllr. Kelly said the residents of Sherlock Walk, Gracedieu stated the traffic has increased on the road and they are looking for a pedestrian crossing to allow children to cross the road to school safely. He is looking for barriers/railing to be erected on the footpath in Cleaboy from DeLaSalle GAA to Ashley Court for safety reasons. He stated there was a music event held in Tramore Racecourse and the residents in the area were not happy and he asked if a licence had been applied for to hold the event. He also supported Cllr. Griffin to have the gate and toilets opened in Ballinaneeshagh graveyard.

Cllr. F. Quinlan also agreed with the opening of the toilets in both Ballinaneeshagh and Kilbarry graveyards and also asked could the Council look at all the monuments/furniture in Kilbarry graveyard stating it is a lawn cemetery and is hard to maintain. He looked for update on the 12 residential units planned for Summerland Square/Yellow Road and asked that the frequency of the traffic lights at junction of Cleaboy Avenue be checked. He looked for update on the cutting of the trees at Belvedere Avenue.

Cllr. Bailey asked if utility companies could be contacted to check their manhole covers on footpaths in estates as a lot of them are sunken and are a trip hazard. She looked for update on the apartments planned for Cherrymount Hill and also update on the public lighting LED retrofit project. She asked if a ramp could be provided at the Scout Hall in the Folly.

F. Galvin, DoS said the Council has successfully engaged with a number of local voluntary groups across the County and has some good models of practise around the maintenance of public toilets at beaches. He will check out the opening of gates and toilets in the 2 graveyards and stated that the Council has written to a number of families about the removal of articles from the Kilbarry cemetery. He stated that the lines should be in place on the pedestrian crossing in Barrack Street and will look at pedestrian crossing in Sherlock Walk. He will check out the frequency of traffic lights at Cleaboy and stated the cutting of the trees in Belvedere is on the Winter Tree maintenance programme. The Public Lighting LED retrofit contract has been signed with works to commence middle of 2022 and completion expected in late Spring 2023.

C. O'Neill, SEE asked Councillors to inform him of specific locations where manhole covers are faulty, and he will contact the utility companies. He will look at providing a ramp at the scout hall and stated he would not recommend erection of barriers on footpaths over a long distance as this can cause accidents but will look at alternative for the footpath on the Cleaboy Road.

L. McGree, SP stated that the Council did not issue a licence for the music event in the Racecourse but stated that licences are only issued in excess of 5,000 attendance and any lower attendance is a matter for the Gardai but he will contact the racecourse and check it out.

C. Hartley, SEO stated the residential development in Summerland Square is going out to tender this quarter with commencement date in early 2022 and she will check development in Cherrymount Hill.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked if the Council were allocating the houses in the Riverstown development or were they being allocated by a Housing body. He asked if the Home Improvement Grants completion date could be extended for some applicants who were having difficulty getting tradespersons to do the work. He looked for update on the pedestrian crossings at the High Road in Dunmore East and at the Fisherman's Hall.

Cllr. Power looked for update on the portaloo in St. Patrick's Gate for Helping Hands. He raised concerns about the instability of the access road into Cheekpoint and looked for assurance on it. He congratulated the Environment Department in providing litter pickers and bags and collecting rubbish when local volunteers do a clean up and asked is there a facility for the public to report illegal dumping. He asked for flashing lights to be placed at the pedestrian crossing at Cheekpoint School to warn drivers of school children crossing and asked for update on the discharge of sewer in Passage East,

Cllr. Daniels welcomed the report that the North Quays sustainable bridge and associated works is at tender stage and said it is very positive. He asked who is responsible for dredging the river as there is a build-up of silt at the Marina. He looked for an update on derelict sites on the junction of Waterside/John's Street and the former Anna Manahan's house in Lombard Street. He said he has received correspondence from the residents of Mount Pleasant looking for something to be done at the entrance to the estate as during icy weather it is very dangerous. He looked for update on the works to the walls near Ballygunner Temple and asked if the resurfacing works on the Dunmore Road could be done at night to avoid traffic congestion on a busy road.

C. Hartley, SEO stated she is working with an approved housing body and the Council will have nomination rights for the houses at Riverstown. She will speak to the Grants section and will support people who are experiencing delays in getting works completed. She is working with the Homeless

Section regarding Helping Hands and will ask Housing maintenance to clean up the house in Lombard Street.

F. Galvin, DoS stated the pedestrian crossing at Fisherman's Hall is being dealt with by S38 at this meeting. He said that all illegal dumping calls are registered on CRM and acted upon by the enforcement officers. He stated there are 2 sewerage schemes in Passage East and Crooke with the older one in lower village discharging treated effluent from the septic tank system into the river. He acknowledged that silting was an on-going issue on the inner section of one of the Marina pontoons and the berthing plan reflects this as only small craft are berthed there. He said that not a lot can be done at the junction at Mount Pleasant other than salting during icy weather but stated that a S.38 proposal will be coming to Council shortly which should improve road safety in the area and he will talk to the Conservation Officer about the Ballygunner Temple graveyard.

C. O'Neill, SEE stated works on the pedestrian crossing on the High Road in Dunmore East are due to commence in the coming days. He can confirm that there is no instability in the access road to Cheekpoint and he is waiting on word from the ESB regarding the lights at the pedestrian crossing at the school. He said that road works during out of hours in a residential area are very noisy and disruptive, but he can look at doing works at least inconvenient times so as not to disrupt traffic.

L. McGree, SP said he will survey the derelict site at junction of Waterside/John Street.

Cllr. Roche also welcomes the issuing of tender documents for the North Quays and asks when will works commence and what will it comprise of. She also welcomed works to the playground in the People's Park and asked for a presentation to the Council on Parks. She enquired into the management of Map Alerter stating that she gets notifications for West Waterford but not always for the city. She looked for update on the opening of the next phase of the Riverwalk and asked for the lighting to be fixed on the Quay and Hanover Street before the start of Winterval.

Cllr. Conway looked for update on the tree cutting schedule for Tramore especially for Monvoy Valley. He asked if the jet patcher could be brought to Tramore urban area especially Newtown Hill and Roselawn where the road surfaces are in a poor state. He looked for a speed survey for Tivoli Terrace and asked if the Council could liaise with the ESB to increase the number of charging point for electric vehicles.

Cllr. O'Sullivan asked why the toilets on Strand Road are closed with the exception of the disabled toilet, she also had concerns about the music at the Racecourse and asked the Senior Planner to check it out and revert and she said the footpaths opposite the Grand Hotel are in a poor state and need to be checked out.

Cllr. E. Quinlan asked if the council site at the former Michael Street shopping centre site could be used for car parking for Christmas which would alleviate car parking issues and also generate income for the Council. He also asked if a fence could be erected along the city walls by the Priory and Wyse Park to stop the walls being ruined by graffiti and he asked if Bus Eireann had spoken to the Council about creating a set down area on the Cleaboy Road for a bus stop.

Cllr. Hearne thanked Michael Murphy area support officer for all the great work in the parish and said they will be moving on to Central Avenue and asked the Council to keep an eye on illegal dumping following the clean up. He also asked if the Council lands in Ballybeg could be cleaned up.

Cllr. Kiely welcomed the updates received by residents regarding the Public Realm Works in Tramore and also the street lighting in Tramore but asked why some areas are in darkness citing Hanover Street stating it is a safety issue and asked what was the situation on overall approach. She asked about segregated cycle lanes and looked for update on the cycle way between Tramore and Waterford and update on the wastewater pumping station at the Pier in Tramore.

F. Galvin, DoS will ask the Horticulturist to make a presentation on the People's Park. He said that Map Alerter is updated by the area engineers but sometimes if emergency works are needed it may not get updated. He said the River walkway is due to open within the next 10 days and lighting on the Quays had been fixed but there is an issue with cables in Hanover Street where work have commenced and due to be complete within the week. The tree maintenance programme has commenced and asked Cllr. Conway for

details of trees in Tramore. He stated that the ESB have provided 12 charging points in the city and county and that the Council and other private operators will be extending the network over the next couple of years. He will check out the closure of the toilets in Strand Road and how viable the car park in Michael Street would be. He wouldn't favour erecting a fence along the old walls but will talk to the Conservation Officer and he will talk to Bus Eireann regarding the bus stop on the Cleaboy Road. He will get the Environmental Wardens to check on illegal dumping following the clean-up. He said the retrofit of LED lighting will be more effective with a lifespan of 20 years and he will be back to Council with plans for the Waterford to Tramore Cycle Way. He stated Irish Water had carried out some upgrade works to the pumping station on the Pier last year.

C. O'Neill, SEE said jet patchers do not work in urban areas as the fine bitumen spray can travel a considerable distance on windy days causing damage to cars and property. He will look at carrying out a speed survey for Tivoli Terrace and will check out the footpath opposite the Grand Hotel.

4. Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 – Traffic Calming Schemes at: (i) Little Patrick St (ii) Bank Lane (iii) Fisherman's Hall

A report on the three schemes had been circulated with the agenda and J. Murray, Senior Engineer Active Travel, presented to the meeting and gave details of the proposed Traffic Calming Scheme for the 3 locations and stated it is now recommended that the schemes should proceed as advertised under Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 with Council approval.

- (i) Little Patrick Street was proposed by Cllr. Wyse and seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed by all.
- (ii) Bank Lane was proposed by Cllr. Mulligan and seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed with Cllr. Kelly and Cllr. Daniels noted as being opposed to the proposal.
- (iii) Fisherman's Hall proposed by Cllr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all.

5. Correspondence

None

6. Motions

Motion in the name of Cllr. Mary Roche

“That this Council resolves to replace the recitation of the Opening Prayer by the members with ‘a moment of silent personal prayer or reflection’ with the duration at the discretion of the Mayor”.

Reg. No. 61 (dated, 19th October, 2021)

Cllr. Roche proposed the motion, seconded by Cllr. Power

Cllr. Roche said she didn't have anything personal against the prayer but stated times have changed and that it's more appropriate that the council would not have a prayer at the beginning, but that if people wanted to make a prayer silently themselves they would be welcome to do so and we that we would replace the opening prayer with a moment of silent reflection or prayer in whatever religious denomination or none that any of the particular members may have.

Cllr. Fitzgerald said he would be voting against the motion as he didn't see anything wrong with the prayer.

Cllr. Daniels also said he was not in favour of the motion stating issues with the prayer have never been raised.

Cllr. Murphy agreed saying it was not an issue and was part of a puritanical secularism that was coming into Irish society that want religion gone out of the public sphere completely.

Cllr. Kelly stated he would not support the motion and was totally opposed saying the prayer was important.

Cllr. E. Quinlan said he didn't feel it was a barrier to participation in the council.

Cllr. Mulligan said the time was not right to support the motion stating it was part of our culture and heritage.

Cllr. Hearne said it was a personal and private matter and asked for it to go to the Procedures Committee.

Cllr. F. Quinlan said he would not be supporting the motion.

Cllr. Conway said he would not be supporting the motion.

Cllr Kiely said she would be supporting the motion she didn't believe a lot of people would be aware enough of the proceedings at council meetings to know that there is a prayer, she said there was not a lot of diversity, and she would like to see that changed.

Cllr. Power agreed stating we are in the 21st century and have to be as inclusive for all the people.

Cllr. Bailey said she would support the motion and said going forward we have to be inclusive.

Cllr. Ryan said he would also be supporting the motion stating people can use that moment of reflection to say the prayer.

Cllr. Roche said it was not an affront to Catholics and we have to be conscious of the number of people who no longer identify as Catholics, and we have to be inclusive.

The Motion was put to a Roll Call:

In favour	Against	Abstain
Cllr. Donal Barry	Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. John Hearne
Cllr. Joeanne Bailey	Cllr. Davy Daniels	
Cllr. Cristiona Kiely	Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	
Cllr. Jody Power	Cllr. Jim Griffin	
Cllr. Mary Roche	Cllr. Joe Kelly	
Cllr. Seamus Ryan	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan	
	Cllr. Jason Murphy	
	Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan	
	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan	
	Cllr. Frank Quinlan	
Total 6	Total 10	Total 1

The motion fell.

7. AOB

Cllr. Conway referred to a planning application in Tramore which was refused in March and lodged with An Bord Pleanála but was then withdrawn. A subsequent application was lodged but was refused then a pre-planning meeting was held with developer. It was alleged that the Planning officer did not take minutes at the meeting and that minutes were subsequently produced by the Developer and agreed. He said there is no transparency and is a serious problem for the Planning Department.

L. McGree said he would not be able to comment as it is a live application.

Councillors asked for meeting to be arranged with L. McGree to discuss the issues raised.

Cllr. Fitzgerald extended congratulations to the Gailltir Camogie club on winning the Senior County Camogie finals.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____