

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

Metropolitan District Meeting held in Council Chamber, City Hall on 20th March, 2023, at 5.00pm

Present:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cllr. Jason Murphy (Mayor) | Cllr. Cristiona Kiely |
| Cllr. Donal Barry | Cllr. Lola O’Sullivan |
| Cllr. Joanne Bailey | Cllr. Mary Roche |
| Cllr. Joe Kelly | Cllr. Eamonn Quinlan |
| Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald | Cllr. Frank Quinlan |
| Cllr. Jim Griffin | Cllr. Adam Wyse |
| Cllr. Jody Power | Cllr. Seamus Ryan |
| Cllr. Stephanie Keating | Cllr. Joe Conway |
| Cllr. David Daniels | |

Apologies:

Cllr. John Hearne

Officials in attendance:

Mr. M. Quinn, DoS, Economic Development
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
Mr. G. Hynes, SE, Roads
Mr. N. Kane, A/SEO, Environment
Ms. C. Hartley, SEO Housing
Mr. A. Kirwan, EE, Roads
Ms. N. Keating, SEE, Roads
Ms. H. O’ Shea, SEP, Planning
Ms. M. Phelan, A/SEE Roads
Mr. S. Gormley, A/SEE, Environment
Mr. M. Murphy, SE, Active Travel
Ms. M. Nolan Reade, Corporate Department

Vote of Sympathies/Congratulations:

Votes of sympathy were expressed to the family of Mary English Congress Place, James Murphy Checkpoint, Jim Hogan Pharmacist Tramore.

Congratulations to horse trainers Henry de Bromhead and John Kiely Tramore and Jockey Colum Comfort on their recent success in Cheltenham and to Irelands rugby team and u20s success of grand slam win.

Mayor Murphy took opportunity to welcome Cllr. David Daniels to his first meeting of Metropolitan District Council.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 20th February 2023 proposed by Cllr. Roche seconded by Cllr. Kelly and agreed by all.

2. Matters Arising,

Cllrs. Griffin requested update regarding Doyle Street water pressure situation.

Cllr. Ryan enquired if letter was issued to TFI regarding motion he brought forward at last month's district meeting and if a reply was received.

Cllr. Fitzgerald sought clarification on CPO timeline process.

H. O'Shea, SEP, will revert regarding Cllr. Fitzgerald's query.

H. Dunphy, AO, outlined letter was issued to TFI, no reply received to date.

N. Kane, A/SEO, outlined councillors concerns regarding issue at Doyle Street were passed onto Irish Water, also suggested to contact Irish Water directly at their email localrepssupportdesk@waterford.ie

Cllr. Griffin stressed the seriousness of the water pressure situation in Doyle Street, families have no hot water and feels immediate action needs to be taken.

Cllr. Kelly enquired if tender issued regarding Mount Suir Apartment requesting details of procedure and timeline.

Cllr. Conway requested update on unauthorised roadway opposite former Majesty hotel.

Cllr. Barry requested update on Clarendon Court apartments and safety audit on roundabouts.

C. Hartley, SEO, outlined Clarendon Court apartment part of repair and lease scheme due be completed.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined safety audit will be carried out on roundabouts under Active Travel initiative.

H. O'Shea, SEP, outlined no documentary evidence on file regarding use of roadway opposite former Majesty hotel, warning has been subsequently issued.

Mayor Cllr. Murphy proposed suspension of standing order to items 4,5,6,3 seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald agreed by all.

4. Road Works Programme 2023

G. Hynes, SE, outlined list of programmes intended to be carried out for 2023, noted workshop was held for members giving full detailed programme with regional road allocation of over €2million, local roads allocation of €3.5million, allocation is slightly increased from last year although inflation increased by 20% from last year which will impact on ability to carry out all works. He recommended approval of the programme as circulated.

Proposed by Cllr. Roche, seconded by Cllr. O' Sullivan agreed by all.

5. Active Travel: Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 – Active Travel Scheme Convent Hill, Tramore – Place Making and Traffic Calming – Completion of Process

M. Quinn, DoS, provided an overview of the Section 38 stressing this should be viewed as a stand-alone proposal, it improves safety in the immediate vicinity of the school, benefits pedestrians in the locality, the road closure is a separate stand-alone issue which is decided by the Executive after public consultation adding when it comes to reviewing the pilot scheme which is in place at the moment the Section 38 creates a broader safer environment which can be looked at in terms of any future proposals in relation to school street concept. If this Section 38 is not approved the same set of circumstance stand as previously with road closure. Outlined the Section 38 will improve safety in the area and should be judged on that basis.

Cllr. O' Sullivan sought clarification that the road closure which is in place will stand regardless of the outcome of this Section 38.

M. Quinn, DoS, clarified the road closure is an Executive function is separate to the proposed Section 38, a full evaluation will be carried out on school street, road closure will remain closed for duration of the pilot regardless of outcoming of vote.

Section 38 completion of process was proposed by Cllr. Kiely and seconded by Cllr. Power

Cllr. Kiely asked for fellow colleagues to support the proposal adding making it easier and safer for children to walk to school and pedestrians in locality safer is climate action, stressing the singular item being voted on today is traffic calming measures.

Cllr. Power outlined once risk assessment is carried out the council are obliged to implement for the safety of the people using the area adding safety should be prioritised especially for children, would encourage fellow councillors to support this proposal.

Cllr. Fitzgerald said he supports safer school streets and active travel, feels this school street road is safe when it is closed in the morning, but surrounding areas are chaos and for this reason will be voting against section 38 proposal.

M. Quinn, DoS, again outlined road closure is an executive function and members are not voting for that, there will be full evaluation following the duration of pilot scheme, outlined the only vote is for the changes being proposed in the Section 38.

Cllr. Conway opposed the proposal noting the consultation process was poorly handled, a better process was required, adding a number of public engagement methods should have been considered.

Cllr. Kelly supported Cllr. Conway regarding public consultation, will be voting against Section 38 proposal feels it is a joint scheme as each road is affected adding he does not believe the Section 38 would make it any safer for children, commented that it would be safer if children had access to school grounds. He concluded that residents' opinions were not considered, and engagements were poor, questioned the decision on the Executive on the schools street, outlined St. Catherine's Trust residents have barriers in their area making access difficult for them and emergency vehicles. Encourage fellow councillors to vote against Section 38.

M. Quinn, DoS, clarified again the road closure is a specific executive function the Section 38 proposal to members is reserved function.

Cllr. Barry thanked Michael Murphy for attending the public meeting, feels surrounding communities are not considered in safe school street, agreed with previous councillors that consultation was limited, going forward a better approach should be considered.

Cllr. Roche raised concerns as should not be waiting for an accident to happen before implementing proposal, would welcome school street as it has a priority of safety for children, feels there is a conflict of rights for primary school children and vehicles, adding the protection of small children should be priority suggesting pilot for one year and reassess then.

Cllr. O' Sullivan said safety if paramount, clarifying that the Section 38 is voting for proposal of three junctions, pedestrian crossing and widening of footpath, there is no vote for open or closing the road.

M. Murphy, SE, outlined there are 12 school schemes proposed for Waterford, the Convent Hill Section 38 is for works Cllr. O' Sullivan mentioned. Agreed with comment that should not wait for an accident to happen to implement safety measures, stressed there is no restriction for emergency services vehicle access.

Cllr. Kelly proposed a roll call vote seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald.

Meetings Administrator carried out a roll-call vote on the Section 38 Active Travel Scheme Convent Hill, Tramore – Place Making and Traffic Calming – Completion of Process.

| Name | For | Against | Abstain | Not present |
|-------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Cllr Joanne Bailey | | √ | | |
| Cllr. Donal Barry | | √ | | |
| Cllr. Joe Conway | | √ | | |
| Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald | | √ | | |
| Cllr. Jim Griffin | | √ | | |
| Cllr. John Hearne | | | | √ |
| Cllr. Stephanie Keating | | √ | | |
| Cllr. Joe Kelly | | √ | | |
| Cllr. Cristiona Kiely | √ | | | |
| Mayor Jason Murphy | √ | | | |
| Cllr. Lola O’Sullivan | √ | | | |
| Cllr. Jody Power | √ | | | |
| Cllr. Eamon Quinlan | | √ | | |
| Cllr. Frank Quinlan | √ | | | |
| Cllr. Mary Roche | √ | | | |
| Cllr. Seamus Ryan | √ | | | |
| Cllr. Adam Gary Wyse | | √ | | |
| Cllr. David Daniels | | | √ | |
| | 7 | 9 | 1 | 1 |

As the majority of votes were against the Section 38 as presented, the scheme will not proceed.

6. Presentation – Waterford Walls

Rosemary Ryall, Conservation Officer gave presentation of Waterford Medieval Walls, briefly outlined the actions proposed, the works carried out, details of delivery action plan, promotion of walls, planned projects and funding, suggestion of setting up medieval walls committee. She extended an invitation to all the members to go on a walk of the Waterford Walls.

Cllr. Kelly thanked R. Ryall for an excellent presentation, welcomed the plans, noting that the annual budget should consider the walls programme along with committee expansion.

Cllr. Ryan thanked R. Ryall for an informative presentation, echoed Cllr. Kelly regarding budget for walls programme for promotion and maintenance, suggested a development free area within city wall should be considered.

Cllr. Conway thanked Rosemary for a lovely presentation enquiring if a cross disciplinary dig was conserved with SETU.

Rosemary Ryall, outlined that an excavation is extremely costly, department are slow to issue licencing as historical layers can be taken away and would welcome a committee.

Cllr. Power thanked Rosemary stating that the city walls are unique to Waterford with tourist and historical potential, supports Cllr. Ryan on exclusion zone. Enquired to potential for lights on the walls.

Cllr. Roche also thanked Rosemary noting that would welcome ancient flag along with lights on towers. Feels opening of towers would be popular and festivals could include towers.

Cllr. Bailey supported Cllr. Roche regarding opening of the towers, agreed with Cllr. Ryan to include city walls in annual budget asked if maps could include city walls and towers, welcomed suggestion of committee.

Rosemary Ryall outlined tourist office link maps are working progress. City of Lights commences in Autumn, as signs are very expensive will only be able to get small amount with current funding available and are looking at different options.

Mayor Murphy thanked Rosemary Ryall for providing the presentation.

3. Reports

Cllr. O' Sullivan requested an update on trees for Main Street Tramore, enquired about two cherry blossom trees in Riverstown that were cut down, thanked N. Keating for work in getting lights repaired in Elm Park, enquired if briefing on water activity centre will take place, requested jet patcher in Ballinamona area. Complemented the library service and staff on great programme.

Cllr. Quinlan requested gates at back Grand Hotel/SuperValu to be opened, enquired about the large canopy at back of Japanese gardens if it could be erected in lower main street area, enquired if a safety report could be completed at Lower Yellow Road of flag stone, asked for consideration to be given to purchasing Ferrybank Shopping Centre under URDF Fund. Requested damaged road at Barrack Street be repaired.

Cllr. Kelly noted from housing report 5 housing refusals on CBL feels this is high enquiring if there is some confusion with applicants, feels the water problem in Doyle Street is a serious issue from hygiene element with hot water and toilet not able to work properly needs to be addressed. Thanked roads department for repair work carried out on footpath by Carroll's Chemist, thanked N. Keating regarding process of bus stop on Cleaboy Road.

N. Kane, A/SEO outlined blossom trees were removed as they were hazard to traffic, replacement planting planned, suggested again contacting Irish Water directly with Doyle Street issue.

M. Quinn, DoS, outlined Part 8 due regarding water activity, Ferrybank Shopping Centre is not in Capital Plan no funding to consider purchasing. Noted trees for Main Street are ordered and will be planted once delivered, outlined no funding available for large canopy at Lower Main Street Tramore could be considered as future project in Local Area Plan.

C. Hartley, SEO, outlined process of CBL, process is continuously being reviewed, also reviewed at SPC G. Hynes, SE, review Barrack Street, Ballinamona/Old Tramore Road repairs, will review Lower Yellow Road issue.

Cllr. Fitzgerald concerned about an exposed underground culvert at Fisherman Grove, there is no resident committee, estate is not Taken In Charge, asked who has responsibility to deal with issue. Enquired what is planned for Cheekpoint Quay and Passage East Harbour regarding coastal repair work with tenders issued, sought date of commencement. Requested clarification of local biodiversity action fund and how it involves Brent geese.

Cllr. Ryan noted that in light of the ending of eviction band feels effects are showing and enquired if tenancy situ scheme operates within Waterford local authority, added that there should be better regulation regarding Air BnBs and requested letter to be issued to department in this regard. Requested update on adaption bikes being allocated an area. Requested jet patcher for Ursuline Court as parts of road in poor condition. Enquired about Tree Planting Schedule.

Cllr. Barry requested update on Greenway from Waterford to Tramore following report which was commissioned, enquired when is next phase of housing activation fund and will extra funding be received due to construction inflation. Requested repair works to be carried out on Lacken Road as it is in poor condition, requested update on St. Lawrence Terrace condition of footpath and steps and Sunrise Crescent not safe crossing place for resident. Requested update on halting site in Kilbarry and improvement works.

M. Murphy, SE, outlined proposal for Tramore Greenway is outdated and under review as NTA have changed guidance to move to rapid build to cut down cost.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined Fisherman Grove estate is not TIC, should have a management company/owner they would be responsible for issues. Will circulate proposed plans for Cheekpoint Pier and Passage East Harbour. Outlined Lacken Road is not in roads works programme, only repair work with jet patcher will be carried out. Noted comments in relation to St. Lawrence Terrace and Sunrise Crescent arrange for Area Engineer to review.

C. Hartley, SEO noted that tenant in situ scheme circular was issued by department on 13th March giving an National acquisition target including target of 50 properties for Waterford, specifically for RAS or HAP tenancy where there is a valid notice to quit. Will formulate a letter with planning to department regarding regulation of Air B&B, outlined Kilbarry hauling site is included in traveller accommodation programme and have met with residents and process of consultation has begun.

N. Kane, A/SEO tree planting scheme will be issued.

M. Quinn, DoS, will review ability bike scheme further, funding would be required for Link Road.

H. O'Shea, SEP outlined local biodiversity fund comes under heritage officer remit. Noted Air B&B that are in rent pressure zoned are required to apply for planning permission for short term lets.

Cllr. Power noted concerns with increase in dead sea mammals with bird flu presently transmitting from birds to mammals and is testing carried out, enquired about tree removed in Marymount area. Noted that Sion Hill house is for sale enquiring if consideration could be given to purchase for horticultural collection. Requested update on statutes on Gilbert O' Sullivan, Val Doonican, and Brendan Boyer.

Cllr. Kiely also noted that removal of Cherry Blossom trees caused great upset as people weren't informed and felt trees enhanced the area, requested that the tree stubs are removed. Requested update on age friendly car parking spaces as camper van marking need to be burned off, requested lifeguard hut be painted in dark colour. Enquired what will happen to the allocated funds for the Section 38 at Convent Hill that was voted against.

Cllr. Griffin feels public realm not utilised enough, agreed with Cllr. O' Sullivans request for tree planting in the area, noted from reports jet patcher going into estates welcome this following request from members. Enquired what new poles in Bolton street will be used for, requested update on island for Gracedieu Manor.

M. Phelan, A/SEE, outlined process of removal of dead mammals/birds.

N. Kane, A/SEO, outlined there was an issue with the roots of the tree in Marymount with gas line which were hazardous, the root/stubs will be removed and cherry blossom replanted.

M. Quinn, DoS, outlined purchase of Sion hill House is not in the capital plan so not in a position to purchase, confirmed trees for public realm in Tramore are ordered and will be installed once delivered. Outlined poles in Bolton Street are part of the animation work and will be used for banners, will follow up regarding proposed statues as referred to the Cultural SPC.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that when weather improves will address the camper van lines removal in age friendly car park spaces, outlined jet patcher is applied where there is adequate space in estates where can be applied.

H. O' Shea, SEP will follow up on Gracedieu Manor island.

M. Murphy outlined €200,000 will be reallocated following refusal of Section 38 at Convent Hill.

Mayor Cllr. Murphy proposed extension to standing orders of 10 minutes, seconded by Cllr. Wyse and agreed by all.

Cllr. Conway asked if signage which was erected on new R675 was planned to be extended throughout county.

Cllr. F. Quinlan suggested flagpole on bridge coming into city would be perfect location, requested clamp down on enforcement of illegal dumping, commended cleansing team during St. Patricks Day, requested small swings in People's Park be replaced.

Cllr. Daniels enquired about extending bike scheme to Ballygunner area, requested update on fountain in People's Park, enquired if parking meters in Bolton Street and Millar Marsh have been reviewed. Requested wall in Lombard Street to be reviewed as it is an eyesore coming into the area. Requested road making and potholes and litter be reviewed at Ballygunner Cross.

Cllr. Roche raised concerns in relation to area used for vehicles in Apple Market and impact on access for pedestrian or wheelchair users to pass safely, requesting review. Requested meeting regarding Cheshire list. Enquired about opening of greenway Bilberry section and signage. Enquired about access to nature park at Ballybeg, update of fountain Peoples Park and John Roberts Square and Tank Court in People's Park.

Cllr. Bailey sought clarification on buy and renew figures for the area and requested repair and lease figures for next meeting. Enquired regarding the tenancy in situ and if there is a price cap per property, requested update on convent building at St. Joseph's. Requested engaging with new owners of Waterford Crystal Centre regarding opening car park during funerals. Enquired if picnic tables could be put on some stop off points on greenway and river way on Quay.

Cllr. Wyse enquired regarding 119 units under affordable scheme for first time buyer and if applicants will be able to have a house viewing of a show home.

Cllr. Keating understands capital projects due to be presented at a workshop requested update on timeframe of the 39 units at Glen Meeting House, sought clarification of buy and renew figures on report. Requested break down of repair and lease and timeframe.

C. Hartley, SEO, outlined buy and renew would be largely city based will revert with clarification on figures. Outlined limits in the tenant in situ scheme cost condition of property and suitability of tenants, unit cost sealing. Outlined St. Joseph's units available on CBL scheme is directly for people aged over 55. Outlined 119 affordable housing units showhouse is yet to come on stream will revert with developers. Will get breakdown for next meeting as per Cllr Keatings request.

G. Hynes, SE, it is an objective for new signage across county, encourage members to report queries on CRM or with Area Engineer in order for queries to be actioned, will liaise with Area Engineer regarding Cllr Daniels query, M. Phelan will arrange meeting regarding Cheshire list.

N. Keating, SEE, outlined parking app is available, there are issues with parking meters consideration given to replacing.

N. Kane, A/SEO, noted comment from Cllr F. Quinlan will pass onto cleansing team, will review small swings in peoples park, update on People's Park perimeter lighting to be installed, tender returned for fountain to be evaluated for revised design works due to commence soon, no update at moment regarding access to nature park from Ballybeg side. Outlined tank court tender due to issue.

M. Murphy, SE, outlined opening of greenway Bilberry scheduled for Friday 2nd June.

M. Quinn, DoS, will review banner/flags at Sallypark, review seating area at Apple Market, markers were previously installed on ground. Will reach out to the owners in Waterford Crystal Centre car park. Outlined picnic tables would mostly be placed by service providers as they can be managed by them.

7. Correspondence

Noted

8. Notice of Motions

None

9. AOB

None

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____