

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

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10th October, 2019 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CITY HALL, THE MALL, WATERFORD.**

PRESENT

Cllr. Ger Barron	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. Donal Barry	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Liam Brazil	Cllr. Pat Nugent
Cllr. Declan Clune	Cllr. Marc Ó Cathasaigh
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell
Cllr. Tom Cronin	Cllr. John O'Leary
Cllr. John Cummins	Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr. Davy Daniels	Cllr. Thomas Phelan
Cllr. Declan Doocey	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness	Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan	Cllr. Seamus Ryan
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Matt Shanahan
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. Adam Wyse

APOLOGIES

Cllr. John Pratt (Mayor), Cllr. Breda Brennan, Cllr. James Tobin, and Cllr. Joe Kelly.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive.
Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services, Housing, Community & Emergency Services.
Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Services, Roads, Water & Environment.
Mr. K. Kehoe, Director of Services, Corporate, Culture, HR & IS.
Mr. B. Pollard, Head of Finance.
Mr. B. Duggan, A/Director of Services, Economic Development
Mr. L. McGree, Senior Planner
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
Ms. A. Maher, Corporate Dept.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Ryan chaired meeting in the absence of the Mayor Cllr. Pratt.
Plenary Meeting held on 12th September, 2019 proposed by Cllr. Daniels and seconded by Cllr. Quinlan.
Minutes of Special Meeting held on 24th September, 2019 proposed by Cllr. Barron and seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Clune requested an update on the Tenants Handbook and current repairs scheme to council houses.
Cllr. Murphy proposed letter of congratulations to issue to WLR on winning the IMRO 'Local Station of the Year Award', agreed by all.
Cllr. Conway asked if the council has deducted fees in relation to derelict sites listed on the register that are CPO'd and if the fees are deducted from the sale price.

Cllr. Mulligan requested an update on the North Quays planning application and implications on SDZ timeline.

Cllr. Cummins asked if the council has engaged with Cork Council in relation to the downsizing scheme they operate and is Waterford going to look at including a similar scheme in Waterford.

I.Grimes, DOS explained that the Tenants Handbook will be brought to the Housing SPC at their next meeting and clarifies that the framework for the repairs scheme is being worked on by procurement. With regard to the CPO's he will check and revert whether fees were deduct Initial discussions have taken place with Cork Council and additional aspects of the scheme need to be explored, council will be updated once completed.

M. Walsh, CE updated members on the North Quays development and expects the planning application to be lodged in the coming weeks, outlined that the SDZ does not have a time constraint.

Cllr. Fitzgerald requested his thanks to the roads section to be acknowledged in relation to on-going work on the Japanese Knotweed programme and reiterated the need for the public to inform the council of any locations where Japanese Knotweed is present.

3. Planning

Planning lists as circulated were noted.

Deputy Mayor requested the members to suspend standing orders to discuss the Regional Spatial Economic Strategy (RSES) submission, this was proposed by Cllr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr. Shanahan.

M. Walsh, CE outlined details of the RSES and its role in providing for the long term strategic planning for the development of the region. The strategy reviewed areas for development, provisions that need to be made and this will be in relation to the City and County Development Plan. He outlined the importance of the North Quays for future employment, development of knowledge based business and consideration of infrastructure requirements. The criteria used relates to 40% of people in the local area being employed in the area and this is the same criteria as used in Dublin and Cork and outlined that he would like to see the urban area considered to include Tramore. He reiterated that a clear message needs to issue in relation to Waterford becoming a University City. The CE introduced Liam McGree, new Senior Planner to the members.

Cllr. Cummins and Cllr. Shanahan expressed concern in relation to population figures used for Tramore and creation of a sub layer not previously mentioned in the National Planning Framework.

Cllr. Mulligan asked for a full workshop on this item, outlining his concern about the public consultation and lack of consultation with the members.

Cllr. Conway agreed with the comments already made and stated that Tramore merging into the Metro areas would be beneficial for the area.

Cllr. Cronin expressed his support for the previous comments, adding that the placing of Dungarvan in the Strategy needs to be reviewed.

Cllr. Phelan asked for clarification on the date for consultation in relation to the expansion of the Waterford area and highlighted his concern about the timeframe to do a submission.

M. Walsh, CE responded that during the initial discussions the council was clear that Tramore should be included in the population criteria used, he agreed to review the population figures as part of the submission.

Cllr. Mulligan proposed that the Deputy Mayor writes to the Southern Regional Assembly requesting an extension of 7 to 10 days to hold a workshop, due to the deadline for submissions this was disagreed with. It was agreed that councillors would email the Chief Executive with items to be included in the submission.

4. Land Disposals

Land Disposals proposed by Cllr. Shanahan, seconded by Cllr. Clune and agreed by all.

5. Monthly Management Report

Cllr. Quinlan raised the issue of the difficulty in festival groups accessing insurance and requested the council review options for blanket insurance to assist and achieve savings. He asked that the map alerter system also informs people when weather warnings are downgraded as the recent weather warning.

Cllr. Wyse requested that CBL applicants are informed when they are unsuccessful in their application and asked that internal photographs are provided on the website.

Cllr. McGuinness asked if a planning application has been lodged for wind turbines in Sean Phobal and outlined his concern that they are unsuitable for the area and asked how they are deemed suitable for an area. He highlighted that there are a number of landlords who are refusing to carry out works on HAP properties and requested details on enforcement and identifying problem landlords.

Cllr. Hearne requested a fire risk audit in relation to the halting site in Carrickphierish halting site and raised concerns with overcrowding on the site. He noted the risk to fire fighters when inhaling toxins at fires and asked if the council closes down illegal scrap yards to help reduce the risk. He asked if Brexit will have an impact on the company in Northern Ireland who are contracted to repair council houses.

I.Grimes, DOS confirmed that the current CBL system does not allow updates to applicants on whether they are successful or not in their bid for a property, details are however put up when a house is allocated. He will review the options for inclusion of internal photos. He stated that there are only a small number of landlords who don't carry out works, where identified enforcement proceedings are undertaken. In relation to the halting site in Carrickphierish the council have maintenance staff who on a daily basis review any issued, he will raise concerns with the committee. He outlined that a full inspection was carried out by the Chief Fire Officer and he will review again with him.

M. Walsh, CE explained that when a wind turbine application is received that all issues are considered by the planners. He noted that there is a possibility of off shore wind farms which have different considerations and requirements.

F. Galvin, DOS outlined that the local co-ordination group follows advice from the National Co-ordination Group in relation to Met Eireann weather warnings, need to ensure that a consistent response is issued to the public. He confirmed that the environment section carries out enforcement action on illegal scrap yards under the Waste Management act.

B. Duggan, A/DOS mentioned that the group AOIFE should be contacted in relation to festival groups seeking insurance.

I.Grimes, DOS outlined that there are no implications on the contractor who is involved with maintenance of council houses.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked if the roads programme is not completed before the year end that the starting point can be rotated each year to ensure that all areas are covered. He informed members that there will be public consultation carried out soon in relation to the Woodstown Heritage Site.

Cllr. Cummins asked if the housing section is adequately staffed as he noticed that tenders due out in Q3 for various schemes have been pushed out to Q4 and queried the reason for this. If it is a staffing issue the budget needs to reflect the need in the area so that targets can be achieved. In light of the current item in the news he asked about protection money being paid to criminal gangs and had this ever occurred here and if so he would like information to be provided. In relation to CBL he enquired if the system could be structured that a person can only bid on the size of property that they qualify for.

Cllr. Conway outlined that the metrics in the housing report are encouraging, however he is concerned about the figures in relation to housing loan applications and tenant purchase scheme. He asked if the increase in ASB is due to the increase in the tenancies or incidents reported.

I.Grimes, DoS outlined that there is a staffing review underway for housing and stated that there can be a number of reasons for delays in schemes. He assured Cllr. Cummins that there is constant scrutiny in relation to schemes and he is confident that the projects referred to will be out to tender by the end of the year. He is satisfied that no protection money has been paid to anyone by the Council. He will consider suggestions in relation to the CBL. In response to the query on ASB he stated that there is an increase in the reporting of incidents. He acknowledged that there is good work being done by Tenancy Management and the Community Section.

F. Galvin, DOS confirmed that the Roads programme is being worked on and is hopeful that it will be fully completed this year.

Cllr. Cummins stated that he would like it noted that he is not satisfied with the answer provided in relation to protection money being paid to local criminals.

Cllr. O'Leary asked if the evaluation on the N25 and Carrols Cross has been completed and furnished to Transportation Infrastructure Ireland. He asked about the cost to the council of the recent illegal dumping on the cliff in Annestown and if there has been a prosecution.

Cllr. Mulligan asked about new builds and why there seems to be a slow role out of the capital programme in comparison to other local authorities. In asked for the SPC to review the retail strategy and complete a report on the outcome, there was public consultation on the strategy but submissions were low.

Cllr. Ó Cathasaigh asked if there are any statistics in relation the success of public consultations, noting that they have been carried out in Tramore. He noted that the Hauliers Association met recently to discuss the route to Rosslare and asked for the N25 and N24 to be included on this route.

F. Galvin, DOS said that in relation to the N25 they have engaged in comprehensive consultation on this. He stated that he will circulate the costs for the clean-up in Annestown, they are confident they will identify who was responsible for the illegal dumping.

I. Grimes, DOS confirmed that the monthly report does show delivery and he is happy that the council has reached and exceeded all targets outlining that 289 allocations have been done to date this year.

K. Kehoe, DOS spoke about the means of informing the public about schemes and developments and that some areas get more engagement than others from the public. Any comment/s will be taken into account and the move from holding of public meetings is due to the low turnout at these meetings.

B.Duggan, A/DOS outlined that more consultation can be carried out if councillors see the need. He stated that submissions do not always reflect the level of consultation undertaken.

Cllr. Daniels enquired about any additional funding for the Greenway, raised concern in relation to the serious issue of fly tipping and associated costs for the council and impact on the budget.

Cllr. Shanahan commended the Dungarvan parks and asked if the fountain in the park can be repaired. He requested engagement with Kilkenny Council in connection with the maintenance of roundabouts at Newrath. He requested an update on Mount Congreve, he welcomed the planning permission for the Waterford Crystal Site and feels that an innovation centre should be included there.

Cllr. Griffin mentioned the overgrown hedges and asked for additional contractors to be engaged in order to address it. He asked if many of the homeless engaged with the council during the recent weather warnings.

Cllr. Barry asked for an update on the amalgamation of the rents scheme , he asked if the repairs of heating systems could they be prioritised and on reviewing CBL refusals he queried if any study has been carried out on the reason for the number of refusals.

F. Galvin, DOS stated that there is no additional funding for the Greenway. He will discuss the presentation of the roundabouts at Newrath with Kilkenny County Council. He outlined that there is currently no funding for the repair of the fountain in the People's Park and estimates repair costs to be in the regions of €80,000. I. Grimes DOS stated that 130-150 housing repair requests come in each week and each call leads to an inspection and then a tender, he is happy that we are working to cover all repairs in a timely manner. He confirmed that homeless people are fully looked catered for during inclement weather, the cold weather initiative is in operation and is satisfied that we can accommodate any rough sleepers in our current homeless services without an emergency one being required. The councils outreach workers talk and contact all rough sleepers when there is a need and work closely with An Garda Síochána

F. Galvin, DoS outlined that work is ongoing in addressing the issue of overgrown hedgerows and landowners are written to in relation to their obligations.

I. Grimes, DoS stated that the amalgamation of rent scheme is being brought to the Housing SPC.

6. Grant of €30,000 to match Department of Justice grant to Waterford Integration Services

I.Grimes, DoS outlined the details of the work of the Waterford Integration Services and requested council to support the need for matching funding to avail of grant from the Department of Justice.

Proposed by Cllr. Quinlan and seconded by Cllr. Hearne and agreed by all.

7. Nomination to Waterford Sports Partnership.

Cllr. Daniels unable to take up position as nominated at Plenary AGM in June, nominations were called for.

Cllr. Kelly was proposed by Cllr. Hearne and seconded by Cllr. Daniels

Cllr. Cummins was proposed by Cllr. O'Sullivan and seconded by Cllr. Geoghegan.

As there were two nominations for this position it was agreed that a show of hands for each nominee would be given. The result was 14 in favour of Cllr. Kelly and 12 in favour of Cllr. Cummins. It was deemed that the position was awarded to Cllr. Kelly.

8. Parks, Playgrounds & Open Spaces Byelaws 2019.

F. Galvin, DoS outlined details of the amendments to the current Bye Laws in connection with the use of amplified sound. Following discussions and comments from a number of councillors it was suggested that the byelaws were referred to the Environment SPC for further review in relation to the effect of the amendments on groups and individuals. Byelaws as presented were proposed by Cllr. Mulligan and seconded by Cllr. Shanahan. Cllr. D. McGuinness proposed the byelaws are referred to the SPC, seconded by Cllr. Clune.

Cllr. O'Sullivan stated that the Environment SPC has already reviewed the Byelaws, stating the amendments have had serious consideration, the recommendations of the SPC and the work carried out needs to be acknowledged.

It was agreed to take a show of hands in relation to the proposals.

The result was 10 voted in favour of amending what was presented and reverting to SPC, 14 voted in favour of accepting amendments as presented. 2 voted against the amendments.

Carried as proposed now by Cllr. Conway and seconded by Cllr. O'Leary.

9. Correspondence

Proposed by Cllr. Conway, seconded by Cllr. O'Leary and agreed by all.

10. Notice of Motions

- 1. Motion in the name of Cllrs. Conor D. McGuinness, Thomas Phelan, Ger Barron, Breda Brennan, Declan Clune, Pat Fitzgerald, Jim Griffin, John Hearne, John Pratt and Seamus Ryan**

"That Waterford City and County Council:

** registers its support for the Fórsa Support Our Secretaries campaign;*

** sends a message of solidarity and support to school secretaries engaged in industrial action for fair pay and conditions in work via their union Fórsa; and*

** writes to Minister for Education and Skills Joe McHugh TD to outline our support for the Fórsa campaign, and to request that Government treat school secretaries with fairness and respect when it comes to pay and conditions".*

Reg. No. 142 (dated, 24th September, 2019)

Proposed Cllr. D.McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Phelan and agreed by all.

- 2. Motion in the name of Cllr. Marc O'Cathasaigh**

“That Waterford City and County Council reaffirm the commitment given in May 2011 as a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors movement by the then Waterford County Council, and that we undertake to renew our responsibilities as signatories as suggested in Section 1.7, pg 13, of our council’s Climate Adaptation Plan.”

Reg. No. 144 (dated, 29th September, 2019)

Cllr. Ó Cathasaigh explained and gave background and previous commitment from Waterford Council, requesting that re-affirm plan and commitment to reduce carbon use and use sustainable energy.

Proposed by Cllr. D.McGuinness, seconded by Cllr J. Power and agreed by all.

3. Motion in the name of Cllr. Davy Daniels

“That Waterford City and County Council request the Government to nominate Waterford as a location in future decentralisation schemes.”

Reg. No. 145 (dated, 30th September, 2019)

Cllr. Daniels outlined the background to this motion and asked that due to the current news on decentralisation that it is an opportune time to have Waterford nominated as a location for decentralisation.

Proposed by Cllr. Daniels, seconded by Cllr. Barron and agreed by all.

4. Motion in the name of Cllrs. Jason Murphy and John O’Leary

“Given that there are over 80,000 reverse vending machines worldwide and Ireland’s first machine has recently been installed in Co. Monaghan, that this Council would look at the provision of reverse vending machines to promote and encourage responsible disposal and recycling of plastic beverage containers here in Waterford.”

Reg. No. 146 (dated, 1st October, 2019)

Cllr. Murphy outlined the details of the motion and Cllr. O’Leary reiterated the devastating effect of plastics and the need to encourage proper recycling.

Cllr. Ó Cathasaigh proposed the following amendment which was seconded by Cllr. D.McGuinness;

‘Furthermore, that Waterford City and County Council shall write to Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, Richard Bruton, urging the Government to progress the Waste Reduction Bill, which has been passed at second stage in the Dáil, and which would ensure the roll-out of a deposit return scheme throughout the State.’

Cllrs. Murphy and O’Leary agreed to the proposed amendment and agreed by all and remove reference to Monaghan.

Cllr. Conway proposed an extension of standing orders for 10 minutes to deal with the remaining items on the agenda, seconded by Cllr. D.McGuinness and agreed by all.

5. Motion in the name of Cllrs. Conor D. McGuinness and John Hearne

“A motion in support of the Borders against Brexit campaign, we are asking Waterford City and County Council to light up a building in yellow (the BCAB colour) on the 16th of October to highlight their campaign”

Reg. No. 143 (dated, 26th September, 2019)

Cllr. Hearne proposed the motions and seconded by Cllr. D.McGuinness and agreed by all.

11. Notice of Questions

Noted

12. AOB

None

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____