

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting of the Metropolitan District held in Tower Hotel, Waterford on 21st September, 2020 @ 5.00pm

Present:

Cllr. Davy Daniels Mayor
Cllr. Donal Barry
Cllr. Breda Brennan
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

Apologies:

Cllr. Joe Conway
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
Mr. P. Johnston, SRE, Housing
Mr. A. Lennon, EE, Housing
Ms. B. Stosic, A/SEE, Roads
Mr. C. O’Neill, SEE Roads
Ms. A. O’Shea, Corporate Department

Vote of Sympathies/Congratulations:

A vote of sympathy was expressed to the families of the late Margaret O’Leary, Cheekpoint.

It was agreed to send letters of congratulations to Sam Bennett on winning the Green Jersey at the Tour the France, to Ballygunner Hurling Team on winning their 7th County hurling title, to the Theatre Art Group on their recent success and to the WCC cycle event for Breast Care Awareness and raising €55,000.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 20th July, 2020 were proposed by Cllr. E. Quinlan, seconded by Cllr. Kelly and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Planning

- a) Planning Lists already circulated by email – noted
- b). Taking in Charge Report

D. Ó Murchadha presented an overview of the current status of Taking in Charge on various estates and dealt with questions relating to Bonds, works not completed, Irish Water and public consultation.

- c). Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994: R675 Waterford Road, Tramore, Co. Waterford. – Completion of Process.

A report on the public consultation process had been circulated with the agenda recommending that the scheme proceed. It was proposed by Cllr. E. Quinlan, seconded by Cllr. O’Sullivan and agreed to proceed in accordance with the recommendation.

- d). Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended Planning & Development Regulations 2001 as amended Part V111 – Commencement of process:
 - (i) Provision of 3 no. 2-bed Social Housing apartments in Waterford City, by means of the refurbishment of existing vacant properties at 22 / 23 Thomas Hill, Waterford.
 - (ii) Provision of 5 no. new Group Houses under the Traveller Accommodation Plan, at Green Road, Waterford City.
 - (iii) Provision of 7 no. bays under the Traveller Accommodation Plan – each with its own 30m² Day House together with a single stand-alone Welfare Facility at Carrickphierish, Waterford City.
 - (iv) Serviced Site infrastructure to facilitate 28 no. new affordable dwellings on a local authority owned site at Carrickphierish, Gracedieu, Waterford City.

A Lennon, EE gave a presentation and overview of all the proposed schemes.

Cllr. Kelly welcomed the proposals but expressed concerns about the management of the bays at Carrickphierish. Cllr. Griffin asked about progress on vacant houses. Cllr. Murphy welcomed the proposals and asked that affordable housing be considered for all new housing schemes. Cllr. Mulligan asked for the costs for purchasing and refurbishing the properties in Thomas Hill. Cllr. Gallagher asked had sustainable urban drainage been considered on the Green Road development. Cllr. E. Quinlan

welcomed the proposals and asked if provision for horses at Carrickphierish was included. Cllr. Barry asked about the exact location of the Green Road scheme adjacent and stated that the site needs to be cleaned up. Cllr. Hearne stated the Council should introduce a horse chipping system to resolve the issues with stray horses. Cllr. Fitzgerald welcomed the schemes but said that affordable housing needs to be considered.

In response, I.Grimes, DoS stated legal delays and complications with title have delayed vacant housing projects but they are progressing. He will look at affordable schemes for future developments, he stated that TAP funding is for traveller accommodation and not for horses and the Green Road development is adjacent to existing site. A Lennon, EE stated that all works are subject to compliance with Development Plan. P. Johnston stated the purchase cost of the Thomas Hill properties was €180,000 and the cost of refurbishment for each unit was €50,000 approx.

It was proposed by Cllr. Brennan and seconded by Cllr. O’Sullivan to suspend Standing Orders to deal with Item Nos. 5 & 6.

5. Winterval Presentation

Tommie Ryan presented revised proposals for Winterval 2020 stating that all activities are being reorganised to comply with the COVID-19 safety restrictions. He said that the Festive Lighting budget is being increased to have a much improved lighting scheme. The festival will commence earlier on the 13th November to allow for social distancing. All Councillors welcomed the news that Winterval 2020 was happening and encouraged everyone to support the City and shop local.

6. July Stimulus Package

F. Galvin, DoS introduced the stimulus package stating that Waterford City & County Council received €4.8M in funding. He gave a brief description of all the proposed schemes for the Metropolitan Area which included flood protection work, the refurbishment and provision of new footpaths, the creation of a Slow Zone in the City centre, road resurfacing on bus routes, new pedestrian crossings and other works. He stated that the deadlines for undertaking the works and claiming the grant funding were exceptionally tight but that the Council was working to complete as much of the work as possible by year end. All members welcomed the developments as outlined.

4. Reports

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked could the Knockboy Road area especially by the schools be exempt from hedge cutting restrictions for the summer months due to the high volume of traffic on that road and also asked about back yard services especially water/sewerage and Irish Water’s responsibility in this area.

Cllr. Ryan enquired if vacant houses purchased by the council were put back into stock or sold on, asked about his ongoing issues with new bus routes and if Bus Éireann were going to present to Council, what action has been take about the dereliction of the ‘Yellow House pub’ and if the growth on the wall at Hennessy’s Road could be cut back.

Cllr. Hearne asked when will the main road in Ballybeg be upgraded, stated that there are a number of learner driver trucks using that road which is causing concern for the residents, highlighted rubbish dumping at 138 Clonard Park and commended the work of the Housing Department and Community Gardai in the Ballybeg area.

I. Grimes, DoS stated that since the Council adopted the Vacant Homes Strategy we have CPO’d 20 properties which will be brought into stock or sold. We have received funding for upgrade of 138 Clonard Park and plan to deliver 254 new builds for 2020.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that the restrictions on hedge cutting was a matter of National legislation but that if the sight lines became an issue then it could be undertaken on an emergency basis. Backyard services are generally a matter for Irish Water and the Council have no control. He will talk to Bus Éireann about the bus routes but noted that they are still waiting on the NTA to approve new routes. There is an issue with Japanese Knotweed on Hennessy's Road which is being dealt with and he stated that there are weight/access restrictions on heavy vehicles in the City but will do a survey of trucks on Ballybeg Road.

Cllr. Mulligan looked for an update on the Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy, also an update on the Retail Strategy given that the city centre is going through difficult times and asked could the traffic wardens ensure that all paths are kept clear on Friday for Make Way - Operation Enable.

Cllr. E. Quinlan stated there has been extensive fires in the Bowefield area and residents are asking for ditches and scrub adjoining their property be removed, extra parking is needed in Ozanam Street, looked for update on the Railway Station in Tramore, there is an issue with Irish Water charging properties on the repair & lease scheme and asked if vacant council lands could be used for woodlands.

Cllr. Barry stated that the closing of O'Connell Street from early Saturday morning to Monday morning to facilitate outdoor eating is unnecessary and could Hanover Street be used for the tables and chairs and he has issues with the proposed traffic layout at the Mount Esker development.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that the Transport Strategy has been delayed due to Covid19 but that consultants have been appointed and are working on a first draft prior to consultation, he will engage with traffic wardens to ensure pathways are kept clear for 'Make Way' day, has noted extra parking request for Ozanam Street and noted that the Council is considering the use of vacant land for forestry.

B. Stosic, A/SEE stated that the set down area at Mount Esker is incorporated in the new plans.

L. McGree, SP stated that that consultants have completed the Retail Strategy and now the council are working with Kilkenny Council to deliver a comprehensive Joint Retail Strategy.

I. Grimes, DoS said he will talk to the CFO regarding the fires at Bowefield; he is aware of issues with Irish Water charges and is in discussions with the Department.

Cllr. Kelly looked for clarity on the proposed footpath for Hennessy's Road and looked for an update on traffic calming measures in Barrack Street and Quarry Road.

Cllr. Power stated that the River Suir plastics recovery group has encountered a lot of drug paraphernalia on the river and asked has the Council any facilities for dealing with this type of waste, he also stated that there is an unpleasant odour coming from the APB plant and asked what the Council can do to stop this.

Cllr. Brennan asked have the road-works at Sacred Heart been extended to Richardson's Meadow and looked for an update on the refurbishment of properties in the Crescent, John's Park.

Cllr. Roche asked could the footpaths in the city centre be looked at for disability users as she has received a number of representations, could the council look at the School Streets Programme, stated the public lights in Cathedral Square are not working and looked for update on the recruitment of the gardeners for the City.

Cllr. Griffin asked that the Council engage with the people of Ferrybank prior to any major works commencing on the North Quays and could we write to Irish Water about the outfalls at Tramore Pier.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that the Barack Street pedestrian crossing proposal will be brought to the next meeting, land has been bought along Quarry Road to facilitate works, there is an internal facility for the disposal of drug waste and APB have an EPA licence for their site and complaints should be made to the EPA. He will look at the footpaths in the City Centre, will bring the Schools Street Programme to the next Transport SPC, the public lights at Cathedral Square are with the contractor for repair and he would hope to have the gardeners by year end. Irish Water are aware of problem at Tramore Pier and he will talk to Economic Development regarding communicating with residents of Ferrybank.

C. O'Neill, SEE advised the footpath will only be at the corner of Blake's Lane and will not extend into Hennessy's Road.

7. Correspondence

None

8. Notice of Motions

Deferred to October meeting

9. AOB

A discussion took place regarding the start time of the monthly meeting with an earlier time of 1:00pm proposed. Agreed to defer to the October meeting for further discussion.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____