

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

**Metropolitan District Meeting held in Council Chamber, City Hall  
on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 5.00pm**

**Present:**

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

**Apologies:**

Cllr. Adam Wyse

**Officials in attendance:**

Mr. Michael Quinn, DoS, Economic Development  
Mr. Niall Kane, SEE, Environment  
Mr. Paul Johnston, SRE, Housing  
Mr. Kevin Phelan, AP, Planning  
Ms. Dawn Wallace, SEO, Environment  
Mr. Michael Murphy, SE, Roads  
Mr. Gabriel Hynes, SE, Roads  
Mr. Alan Kirwan, EE, Roads  
Mr. Roger Noonan, SEE, Roads  
Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator  
Ms. Anne Flynn, Corporate Department

**Vote of Sympathies/Congratulations:**

Votes of sympathy were expressed to the families of Cllr. Damien O'Reilly, Geoff Power, Gerry Cullinane, John Maddox, Sandra Fanning.

Congratulations to Ballygunner GAA on their 10<sup>th</sup> successive county championship win, to Clem Jacob Hire on their 90% reduction in carbon emissions, to Tommy Delaney on his European success.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 proposed by Cllr. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald and agreed by all.

**2. Matters Arising**

Cllr. Ryan asked that the council engage with the residents of Spring Garden Alley in relation to ongoing issues.

M. Quinn, DoS noted in contact with a resident's representative. A number of jobs have been completed in the area and working on the remainder.

Cllr. Kelly asked for any update from the Department on funding for the bridge in People's Park.

G. Hynes, SE said full funding has been approved by the Department with works to commence by the Contractor.

Cllr. Daniels asked that the bandstand in the People's Park be painted.

### 3. Reports

Cllr. Ryan asked the Housing Department to host a one stop shop where the various housing options available and information on them would be displayed. He requested an update on Mount Suir and asked that the expansion of the bike rental scheme include cargo bikes. He asked for an update on the Council's submission to the Department in relation to Mobile Library funding.

Cllr. O'Sullivan asked about the taking in charge of Pebble Beach, Tramore which was built as holiday accommodation but now has permanent residents and requested an update on the taking in charge of Mount Neil. She asked that where journalists take information from the internet that they ensure that the information is factual prior to printing.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked what resources the Council are providing to tackle the issue of sewerage in the Dunmore East Area which is a huge health issue with a number of houses affected. He noted concerns about carrying out renovation works while the tenants are in situ in Mount Suir.

M. Murphy, SE noted that the possible expansion of the TFI bike rental scheme will be reviewed at the end of its first year in operation, outlined that cargo bikes are very expensive but would consider. P. Johnston, SRE will discuss with his colleagues the hosting of a one stop shop and outlined that an update on mount Suir has been circulated.

Kevin Phelan, AP will follow up with Cllr. O'Sullivan in relation to her queries on taking in charge. Dawn Wallace, SEO noted that issues have been identified in Dunmore East confirming that the sea water is tested regularly.

H. Dunphy, MA will follow up on our mobile library submission to the Department.

Cllr. Bailey requested an update on the allocation of the Three River Apartments, enquired about the use of CCTV for the Park to help combat vandalism. She asked if the speed limit in Butlerstown could be reduced by the executive prior to completion of the speed limits review and asked about the taking in charge of the newer part of Fairfield Park.

Cllr. F. Quinlan asked that the phone box on the Quay be removed. He noted that there is an issue with motorists not observing pedestrian crossings and outlined that car parking spaces in Ballybricken are blocking vision. He requested the light frequency at Stephen Street be reviewed.

Cllr. E. Quinlan asked if the car park spaces outside the Coast Guard Station in Tramore could be resurfaced. He asked that one of the parking spaces on Patrick Street be converted into a space for people with disabilities. He requested an update on both the playground and the skate park in Tramore. He asked if a Housing Transfer Applicant could be accommodated with a move to a smaller house following a tragic incident in the current property.

G. Hynes, SE said the speed limits workshop planned for October is on hold pending the issue of new guidelines. The Executive cannot change speed limits and must wait for the guidelines. The pedestrian crossings at Ballybricken and the lights at Stephen Street will be reviewed. The resurfacing of the car park spaces outside the Coast Guard Station will be looked at under the programme for 2024 and the car spaces at Patrick Street will be reviewed.

P. Johnston, SRE said the Three River Apartments are nearing completion and will be ready for allocation shortly. He will discuss details of the Housing Transfer Applicant directly with Cllr. E. Quinlan.

D. Wallace, SEO outlined that the skate park is a new design but in the same location and a new adult gym is going into Splashworld.

N. Kane, SEE will write to An Gardaí Siochana in relation to CCTV for the park.

Cllr. Griffin asked about the additional signage agreed for Barrack Street. He asked that the contractor be contacted in relation to the public lights that are out of order in Tramore. He requested that the footpath on Doyle Street be looked at so that wheelchair users or people with buggies do not have to cross the road. He asked about the work plan for Ballybricken Green, noted that a tree stump in Avondale is causing problems and asked if the Council's Horticulturist has been replaced. He asked for an update on heating issues in Kilcaragh and asked that safety issues at St. Mary's in Ferrybank be addressed.

Cllr. Murphy said the main road through Ballybeg is in poor condition and asked when works would be carried out and to what extent. He requested the spelling on the Noel Browne Monument be corrected. He said that there are horses on the grounds of the old Waterford Crystal Showrooms which could pose a danger should they wander on to the road. He asked for the installation of a drinking water fountain in the People's Park

Cllr. Kelly congratulated all those involved in the Play Day Ballybricken Green on the 5<sup>th</sup> September and enquired about the provision of a small playground on the Green. He asked if tree pruning had commenced noting trees in Hillview needed pruning. He outlined issues around access to sewerage mains in Hillview that need to be addressed.

G. Hynes, SE outlined that in discussions with Kilkenny County Council in relation to Ferrybank with meeting on site being arranged. The Barrack Street crossing will be reviewed as will the public lights that are out of order in Tramore. Ballybeg Drive was included in the 2023 programme but because of some issues around surface materials it will now be included in the 2024 programme.

D. Wallace, SEO said interviews for a horticulturist are to be held shortly, the tree stump in Avondale will be looked at. Horses as reported are on private land where council has no powers to remove them. She said we will look into a drinking water fountain and the spelling on the Noel Browne Monument and in reply to Cllr. Kelly, she said that tree cutting has commenced.

G. Hynes, SE said that tree cutting runs from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> September and said landowners have a responsibility to ensure their hedges and trees are cut.

P. Johnston, SRE outlined that the footpath at Doyle Street is the subject of legal proceedings and noted that contractor has been appointed in Kilcaragh.

M. Quinn, DoS requested councillors to submit their list of issues in relation to the school in Ferrybank and noted that the sewerage issue in Hillview are a matter for Uisce Éireann.

Cllr. Barry requested an update on the pedestrian bridge and illumination of the crane on the Quay. He noted that the Kilbarry Link Road is dangerous for pedestrians as there is no footpath requesting one to be provided. He asked that the cars on the footpaths in Lismore Park blocking pedestrians be looked at and requested extra seating for the bus stop at Meagher's Quay. He asked for an update on the lights at pedestrian crossing at the Odeon Cinema.

Cllr. Roche requested an update on the planning application due from Harcourt Developments for the North Quay and asked for an update on the buyout of the N25 toll. She asked for an update on Kilcaragh park and asked for a meeting with the new Roads Engineer and the local area representatives in relation to access at Cheshire Homes. Requested a marker put in place to signify the end of the Greenway in the City suggesting a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce and the

City Centre Management Group. Enquired if there is a current business case in relation to the Airport with the Minister and could a copy of same be sought.

Cllr. Keating asked that speeding in King's Channel and King's Court estates, Killea Road, Dunmore East and the entrance to the woods at Cowtown be looked at and asked if councillors and residents can have input into speeding reviews. She requested an analysis of allocations and asked how long it takes from application to allocation for medical priority applicants.

G. Hynes, SE said in relation to Kilbarry Road that a planning application is due, and footpaths and lighting will be delivered as part of the development. He said there is an issue with the ESB connection and also a third-party waiver is required in relation to the lights at Poleberry. In relation to the N25 toll he said this has not progressed due to staff shortages. He said the Active Travel Team will meet with members to discuss access to Cheshire homes. In reply to Cllr. Keating, he said signage will be reviewed and said speed limits are enforced by the Gardai. In relation to the speed limit review, he said public consultation is part of the process and a workshop will be held for members.

P. Johnston, SRE said he would revert with information as regards allocations and medical priority applicants.

Dawn Wallace, SEO said in relation to Kilcaragh that the closing date for submissions in relation to costing the design was today.

M. Quinn, DoS said illuminating the crane is being included in the overall assessment being undertaken. The planning application by Harcourt Developments is actively being worked on, work is currently underway on up-to-date business case for the airport and negotiations are ongoing. He will review end of the Greenway.

G. Hynes, SE said the bus stop at Meagher's Quay will be reviewed.

Cllr. Daniels asked if there are budget allocations for new signage in relation to speed limits and also to cover the amount of work that is needed in relation to pruning trees. He asked that the pedestrian lights at Powerscourt be reviewed.

Cllr. Kiely thanked the Council, Cllr. O'Sullivan and Water Safety Ireland for their support in relation to Ras na mBan. Enquired if Harcourt's planning permission will include designs for entire site including the train station. She asked that we write to the Airport Board for an update on the business plan. In relation to School Street Glor na Mara she requested that the road closure be reinstated and that the S38 that was voted against be put back on the agenda saying it is now more dangerous for the children attending school that it was previously. She asked for a bike station at Bilberry and Ferrybank by Greenway and also for an update on EV charging stations.

Cllr. Conway supported the taking in charge of Pebble Beach. He asked if there is a vacant site register for Tramore and could it be made available. He asked what progress has been made with the new owners of the Grand Hotel and said enforcement is needed in relation to dumping and horses in the area around the NCT Centre.

G. Hynes, SE noted speed limit review will commence on receipt of new regulation, the junction at Powerscourt will be looked at in terms of signage and the reinstatement of yellow box.

M. Murphy, SE outlined that a revised proposal is being prepared for Glor na Mara, there will be no changes to bike parks until the first full year is completed.

D. Wallace, SEO noted there is a lot of tree cutting to be done on the Dunmore Road and elsewhere.

M. Quinn, DoS noted will write to airport and request update, planning application from Harcourt Developments will prioritise the centre of the site initially.

G. Kennedy, SEE noted that strategy being developed for EV chargers including funding options.

K. Phelan will follow up with Cllr. Conway in relation to the taking in charge of Pebble Beach. The vacant sites and derelict sites registers are available on the website and will follow up in relation to the Grand Hotel.

Cllr. Hearne asked for an update on the works for Manor St. John Community Hall. Requested double yellow lines at Lismore Park and requested a workshop with the Gardai in relation to anti-social behaviour issues.

G. Hynes, SE said standard lining will be provided in Lismore Park and resurfacing of Ballybeg Drive will be a priority for next year.

H. Dunphy, MA will follow up on Manor St. John Community Hall with the facilities team.

M. Quinn, DoS noted that issues raised by Cllr. Hearne could be addressed by the Safety Partnership Committee.

#### **4. Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended Planning & Development Regulations 2001 as amended Part VIII – ‘The Munster Express’ Merchants Quay – Completion of Process**

Moris Conway, SEA outlined the proposed development at ‘The Munster Express’ Merchants Quay which involves refurbishment works to 37 Merchant’s Quay, the construction of a three-storey building connected with 37 Merchant’s Quay and will require the removal of existing warehousing and commercial units on the eastern side of Hanover Street. The public consultation process was from 27<sup>th</sup> June to the 31<sup>st</sup> July with three submissions received. There was no modification to the proposed scheme as a result of these submissions. All comments by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage were noted, and their recommendations will be adhered to prior to the works commencing. The proposed development will not contravene the policies and objectives of the Waterford City & County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Cllr. Conway, Cllr. Barry, Cllr Griffin, Cllr E. Quinlan, Cllr. F. Quinlan. Cllr. Daniels, Cllr. Kiely and Cllr. Kelly all commented on the proposed development.

Proposed by Cllr. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr E. Quinlan and agreed by all.

#### **5. Active Travel Scheme Update**

M. Murphy, SE gave a presentation on the Metropolitan Municipal District Active Travel Schemes giving an update on the status of the various schemes, those completed in 2023, those due to start in 2023 and those at statutory process/design stage.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked about pedestrian access in the Williamstown Road Active Travel Scheme.

Cllr. Ryan said he fully supported Active Travel and asked about the reduction of traffic lanes on that main Cork Road into the City. He also asked about the Inner Ring Road Cycle Route and asked if St. Saviour’s National School requested the Safe Routes to Schools proposal.

Cllr. Bailey asked if the concerns expressed by members at recent workshop in relation to some of the Schemes had been taken on board. She asked if there had been consultation with other departments etc. in relation to the Schemes and asked about the green area in Lismore Park.

Extension of standing orders for fifteen minutes proposed by Cllr. Bailey, seconded by Cllr. Kelly and agreed by all.

Cllr. Kelly asked about the cycle lanes on Tramore Ring Road Scheme. He asked that public consultation be meaningful and commented that although the narrowing of roads may be necessary there appears to be no allowance made for emergency vehicles.

Cllr. Barry said if there is no right turn along the Cork Road discussions are needed with the businesses there. He enquired about the bike counter for Manor Street. He asked about the two-way cycle lanes on the Inner Ring Road. He asked that the road at Sunrise Crescent and the bus stops in Larchville be included and asked if the local area plan for Kilbarry will be affected.

Cllr. Griffin welcomed the schemes commenting that it will be necessary to bring motorists on board. He said Irish Water are undertaking substantial works in Tramore and asked that there be consultation to avoid the reopening of roads and footpaths.

Extension of standing orders for additional fifteen minutes proposed by Cllr. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. E. Quinlan and agreed by all.

Cllr. Hearne welcomed the Lismore Park Scheme and the Safe Routes to Schools for St. Saviour's Ballybeg.

Cllr. Roche asked about Kingsmeadow Road and said a right turn is required at the Waterford Crystal site. She said in some of the areas and in particular on the Cork Road footpaths are in very poor condition and said paths should be included in Active Travel for some areas. St John of God School, Passage Road cannot be done in isolation and there should be consultation with the members and the public before any proposals are formulated.

Cllr. E. Quinlan asked if the Gaelscoil in Carrickphierish are on board with proposals and asked if a stop-go system will be operated at Newtown.

Cllr. Kiely asked if all cycle lanes will be two-way and asked about consultation and also enquired about the timelines.

The queries raised by the members and their comments were noted by M. Murphy, SE.

## **6. Climate Action Plan Update**

G. Kennedy, SEE, outlined that the draft consultation documents will be available during the consultation period which is due to commence on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023.

## **7. Correspondence**

None.

## **8. Notice of Motions**

None.

## **9. AOB**

None.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge  
Waterford City & County Council

**Resolution of the Elected Members  
Waterford City and County Council, Metropolitan District  
18<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
Ref: 2023/17**

In accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Part XI Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) Part V111 the proposed development at “The Munster Express”, 37 Merchant’s, extending along Hanover Street to 41 O’Connell Street.

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE Metropolitan District of Waterford City & County Council that the scheme as presented and after consideration of submissions, proposed by Cllr. O’Sullivan seconded by Cllr. E. Quinlan and agreed unanimously THAT THE PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED PROCEEDS.

**Signed:**

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**Councillor Jody Power**  
**Metropolitan District Mayor**

**Witnessed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Honor Dunphy**  
**Meetings Administrator**