

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

Meeting of the Metropolitan District held in City Hall, Waterford on 16th December 2019 @ 5.00pm

Present:

Cllr. Breda Brennan Mayor
Cllr. Donal Barry
Cllr. Joe Conway
Cllr. John Cummins
Cllr. Davy Daniels
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Jim Griffin
Cllr. John Hearne
Cllr. Joe Kelly
Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Marc Ó Cathasaigh
Cllr. Lola O’Sullivan
Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Seamus Ryan
Cllr. Matt Shanahan
Cllr. Adam Gary Wyse

Apologies:

Cllr. Eamonn Quinlan

Officials in attendance:

Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Services
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
Mr. J. McGree, Senior Planner
Mr. J. Sullivan, SEO Housing
Ms. B. Stosic, A/SEE, Roads
Ms. A. O’Shea, ASO

Vote of Sympathies/Congratulations:

A vote of sympathy was expressed to the families of the late Oisín Ryan, Mary Kiely, Helen Paisley and Martina Stewart.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery for Cllr. Ger Barron

Votes of congratulations were expressed to:

- All staff involved with Winterval for a very successful season
- Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens and Tramore Town Centre Chamber of Commerce on their Christmas Lights.
- Jim Nolan Playwright on his sell out production of ‘The Red Iron’

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 18th November, 2019 were proposed by Cllr. Ó Cathasaigh and seconded by Cllr. Kelly and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Ryan asked about illegal parking in the Applemarket/Spring Garden area and also looked for landscaping of the roundabout at the entrance to Ursuline Court. Cllr. Daniels looked for update on Taking in Charge of the Paddocks. Cllr. Mulligan looked for update on the weekly parking ticket in Waterside car park, traffic management in Arundel Square and Brown's Lane and signage on the Poleberry Link Road.

F. Galvin, DOS stated he intends to have a scheme in place for the weekly parking tickets by early January, work is progressing on a revised traffic management plan to coincide with the completion of works in Browns Lane, the signage at the Poleberry Link Road will be looked at along with the roundabout at Ursuline Court. J. McGree, SP stated that good progress is being made on the Taking in Charge of the Paddocks and he will circulate timelines to Councillors.

Cllr. Kelly asked for update on the pedestrian crossing in Barrack Street and traffic calming at Quarry Road. Cllr. Ó Cathasaigh looked for update on the electric vehicle charging points in Tramore and Cllr. Griffin asked for signage to be put up on Bunkers Hill about the water leaking onto footpath. B. Stosic, A/SEE stated the ESB are currently upgrading their electrical charging points and she will follow up regarding the points in Tramore. F Galvin DoS, noted that the Barrack Street pedestrian crossing is on the Agenda, he will revert with proposals for Quarry Road early in the New Year and he will investigate the water leak at Bunkers hill. Cllr. Barry stated more signage is needed on the Poleberry Link Road, looked for update on footpath at Sunrise Crescent/Claremount junction and an update the employment task force from Motion No. 45.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that the signage at Poleberry will be considered and he will ask the engineer to have a look at the footpath at Sunrise Crescent. The question regarding the employment task force will be referred to Economic Development.

3. Planning

a) Planning Lists already circulated by email – noted

b) Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 – New Pedestrian Crossing at Barrack Street, Waterford – Commencement of Process.

F. Galvin, DoS Roads gave an overview of the proposals and dealt with questions relating to cycle traffic, loss of parking spaces, location of crossing, the removal of trees, one way system, yellow lines and use of flashing amber lights. It was agreed to commence the public consultation on the proposal following which the matter will revert to Council for decision.

4. Reports

Cllr. Wyse has concerns regarding contractors not reinstating roads back after repair works in particular works and asked has the Council any power to withhold funding until works are completed.

Cllr. Cummins asked what date the North Quays Planning application would be lodged and also what was the timeline for development works. He asked what was the timeline for works on the Butlerstown/Ballycashin Road which has been closed on numerous occasions due to flooding and the sightlines and lighting at Orchardstown Cross need to be looked at for safety reasons and should be made a priority for 2020.

Cllr. Murphy asked when works at Brown's Lane would be completed, what was the update on Bus Éireann presenting to Council, out of date signage needs to be removed and stated the need for adequate lighting in the People's Park.

F. Galvin, DOS advised that contractors apply for a Road Opening Licence before works commence and Council have capacity to call in the deposit if the roads are not reinstated to the correct standard. The Area Engineer is working on a proposal to alleviate the flooding at Butlerstown and it would be intended to undertake work there early in the New Year. He further stated that the Council will be considering a further phase of works at Orchardstown Cross. Brown's Lane is scheduled to open later in January and he will come back to Council with a Traffic Management Plan. He has met with Bus Éireann and will follow up with them. Most of the redundant signage has been removed and lighting in the People's Park is not an option at present due to budget constraints.

L. McGree, SP stated that the North Quays Planning application would be lodged next day (Tuesday 17th December) and he would circulate the timeline for development works to all members.

Cllr. Mulligan stated that the Christmas Lights in John Street/Applemarket were faulty and asked that they be fixed, the set down areas in the city centre are working well but there is a need for more areas, he asked could the Byelaws be amended for resident only parking and he looked for a breakdown of insurance claims for the year.

Cllr. Daniels stated he is very disappointment with the Government in relation to plans for Broadband as yet again Waterford have been excluded and asked that we write to the Taoiseach and Minister Ring stating that this was not acceptable and we just want a level playing field.

Cllr. Ó Cathasaigh congratulated the Environment Department in supporting the launch of 2GoCup in Tramore, there is also an issue with residents parking in Patrick Street, Tramore, asked if Tramore was included in the Metro Area Transport Plan and stated the cats-eyes on the Tramore Road need to be replaced due to poor visibility.

F. Galvin, DOS stated he will talk to Economic Development regarding Christmas lights fault and will look at the set down areas. It is not legally possible to designate parts of the public road for designated residential parking only. He will talk to the Area Engineer about the replacement of cats-eyes on the Tramore Road. He will check with the Finance Department on the insurance claims question.

L. McGree, SP stated that Tramore is included in Section 2 of the Transport Plan and will be dealt with through the Local Area Plan process.

Cllr. Conway enquired about 5G aerials been erected on the Grand Hotel without permission and asked about the identity of the owner and serving an enforcement notice on him, asked was there an audit on waste bin collection companies and what is the situation with rates on vacant sites in particular the Grand Hotel, Tramore and the Nursing Home.

Cllr. Ryan asked if the 2GoCup scheme could expand to the City, could Bus Éireann expand their route to include Kilbarry/Foxwood, asked what is the current situation regarding rough sleepers in the city and he fully supports Cllr. Daniels on the Broadband issue.

Cllr. Hearne asked about boiler repairs for Council tenants, stated that the signage at Bus Éireann bus stops needs to be kept current as people are waiting on buses that do not come, asked if a tender process took place for extra works to homes in Trinity Square and suggested that the Homeless Services meet with Helping Hands Association.

L. McGree, SP stated he is having difficulty tracking down the owner of the Grand Hotel and have hired a firm of investigators. The Council has been allocated resources for additional staff in the Enforcement Department in relation to short term letting as the City is a rent pressure zone.

F. Galvin, DoS said there is no audit for bin collection but there are Bye Laws in place to ensure Waste Companies and the public are complying with the law. Rates have been levied on the Grand Hotel but not on the Nursing Home as it's not fully built. The 2GoCup is running on a pilot scheme in Tramore and if successful will consider a wider roll out in the City. He also agreed to contact the NTA and Bus Éireann regarding the additional routes.

J. Sullivan, SEO stated that there is no one sleeping rough in Waterford as there is a new integrated HUB comprising of Waterford City & County Council, HSE, Focus, Simon and 2 social care workers which is very successful. He also confirmed that the works at Trinity Square were properly procured under public procurement requirements.

Cllr. Barry asked could a scheme be put in place where tenants would pay for boiler service from a list of registered plumbers and get refund or offset payment from rent, he is happy with the works at the Dr. Noel Browne memorial but asked for two trees to be reinstated there and looked for update on junction of Hennessy's Road/Blake's Lane.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked for grit/salt to be put into the Grange estate in the event of icy weather, the yellow lines outside St. Andrew's Church, Dunmore East need to be removed and there are cracks appearing in the pier in Cheekpoint and could we look for funding to do remedial works. HAP tenants are contacting him about dampness and could we get inspectors out to inspect premises.

Cllr. Power stated the roundabout at Ardkeen Centre needs to be marked properly as drivers are going the wrong way. A number of trees have been cut at the Kingfisher Centre and asked if the developers had permission to cut them. The Wastewater Plant in both Belview and Dunmore East have overflowed during the summer months due to heavy rainfall and he would have concerns as new developments may cause an extra drain on the plant and is there any developments regarding the inclusion of the Metropolitan District for the Southern Region Assembly.

F. Galvin, DOS will consider further planting at the Dr. Noel Browne Park memorial, in the event of a prolonged severe icy weather, sand and grit will be made available, the Area Engineer is checking out the yellow lines outside St. Andrew's Church and consultants are looking at the pier in Cheekpoint with a view to applying for funding to the Department of the Marine in 2020. The roundabout at Ardkeen Centre is on private property and he is not aware of trees being removed from the Kingfisher Centre but if there was a tree preservation order on them the developer would need permission. The concerns regarding the waste water treatment plants is a matter for Irish Water.

L. McGree, SP will check out the status of the trees and R.S.E.S. was adopted in November and will come into effect on 31st January and boundaries have been fixed and no changes made. B. Stosic, A/SEE advised that she is looking at the sightline issues at Blake's Lane.

Cllr. O'Sullivan asked could trees in Hillview be included in the programme, would it be possible to erect cameras on the Glen Road due to excessive dumping on a stretch of the road, stated the Council need to serve notice on the owners of the Grand Hotel and do we have any power to put pressure on the owners of the Nursing Home to either develop or sell the property.

Cllr. Griffin asked that boiler maintenance be a priority before Christmas, asked what can be done to help a council tenant living beside a rodent infested house, is there enough head height on footpath opposite the Tower Hotel, could Councillors be updated with on the Tramore Public Realm project, stated there are a number of public light outages in Tramore and brown water is coming from the taps in Ballycarnane estate.

Cllr. Shanahan asked for workshop on the Airport, stated a letter should be written to Minister J.P. Phelan regarding the RSES as we are losing out on funding. He looked for an update on the Kilbarry Area Action Plan workshop, on the Frisby Construction development at Waterford Crystal site, the Carroll's Cross junction and the Foreshore Licence from Energia for off-shore wind farms

F. Galvin, DoS will put trees in Hillview on list, he will check with enforcement on dumping at the Glen Road, the Public Realm works will commence in mid January and will talk to Irish Water concerning the water quality in Tramore. Extensive surveys have taken place at Carroll's Cross and there will be a meeting with TII to discuss design options.

L. McGree, SP stated he is working with our enforcement and legal team on the Grand Hotel. Cllr. Shanahan stated that a letter needs to be sent to Minister Phelan as the Spatial Plan is inadequate to needs of city. L. McGree, SP said that the Development Plan will be looking at the hinterland including Tramore and the Airport. He said they are working with the NTA regarding the Kilbarry Framework Plan and this should be completed by mid 2020. The Council did not have a role with respect to the Foreshore Licence for Energia.

Cllr. Kelly asked if there were any plans for a facelift for the Millennium Plaza, looked for update on the public lighting outage at RSC and asked if a section of Hennessy's Road could be made one-way and the footpath be widened.

Cllr. Brennan asked that the disabled spaces in City Centre be left when looking at extra set down areas. Looked for update on putting a single yellow line outside Christchurch N.S. and the speed survey for Airport Road and Old Tramore Road.

F. Galvin, DoS stated there is no additional budget for refurbishing the Millennium Plaza but he would be hoping to undertake some maintenance works during the year. The lights at the RSC are due to be repaired in the current week following a major cable breakage. He will look at a one way system on Hennessy's Road. He has no intention of removing any disabled bays in the city centre and both the yellow lines and speed surveys are on the Roads Programme for after Christmas.

5. Correspondence

None

6. Notice of Motions

None

7. AOB

Cllr. Cummins asked about the tender details for works in Trinity Square. J. Sullivan, SEO will send him the details of tender.

Cllr. Griffin wished to send congratulations to Enda Dowling and his team in Housing for all the great work they have done.

Cllr. Shanahan asked were there any plans for the rear of the Yellow House as he would be concerned about squatter's rights. L. McGree, SP will follow up and revert.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____