

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

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14th JUNE, 2018 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CITY HALL, WATERFORD**

PRESENT

Cllr. Pat Nugent, Mayor	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. Liam Brazil	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Breda Brennan	Cllr. Ray Murphy
Cllr. John Carey	Cllr. John O'Leary
Cllr. Tom Cronin	Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell
Cllr Declan Clune	Cllr. Michael J O'Ryan
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr. John Cummins	Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Davy Daniels	Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. Declan Doocey	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Seán Reinhardt
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. Blaise Hannigan	Cllr. James Tobin
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. Siobhan Whelan
Cllr. Joe Kelly	Cllr. Adam Wyse

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Cha O'Neill

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive
Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services, Housing, Community & Emergency Services
Mr. F. Reidy, A/ Director of Services, Corporate, Culture, HR & IS
Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Services, Roads, Water & Environment
Mr. J. Murphy, Head of Finance
Mr. B. Duggan, SEO, Economic Development & Planning
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
Ms. S. Walsh, Senior Staff Officer

1. Confirmation of Minutes

- (a) Plenary Meeting held on 10th May, 2018 proposed by Cllr. O'Leary, seconded by Cllr. Carey and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Cummins asked for the minutes of 10th May, 2018 amended to reflect his proposal to hold a housing summit in City Hall within 30 days.
I Grimes, DOS said that as part of the review of the development plan, the process will start in the next few months and will include a discussion on housing supply.

Cllr. Cummins said the Council required a housing summit and it was proposed and seconded at the last meeting. Cllr. Pratt supports Cllr. Cummins proposal.

Cllr. Roche asked if a response was received from Minister J. P. Phelan regarding the invitation to address the Council and an update on the presentation from Dr. Owens regarding 24/7 cardiac care.

F. Reidy, A/DOS said he will issue letter to Minister.

H. Dunphy, AO replied that she is liaising with Dr. Owens to agree a date.

Cllr. Griffin outlined this concern in waiting too long for the summit as rent prices continue to increase.

Cllr. Mulligan asked for a breakdown on where homeless people waiting for emergency accommodation are sleeping.

Cllr O'Leary proposed to rescind the invite to Minister J P Phelan coming in to address the Council. Cllr. Roche said that the Council should still invite him in to hold him to account for recent decisions.

I Grimes, DOS said the Council will look to have a housing summit in July and homeless data as requested will be provided for the next meeting.

Cllr. Kelly agreed that the summit is required immediately and asked if the Minister can be written to regarding HAP to have it reviewed. Cllr. Daniels asked for an update on the Airport. Cllr. Hannigan said there seems to be an issue with HAP tenants contacting the relevant staff in the Housing Department.

Cllr. Tobin proposed a suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the Emergency motion on Wind Turbines, seconded by Cllr. Pratt and agreed. Emergency Motion in the names of Cllrs. Cronin, Geoghegan, Pratt, Tobin, Whelan, Doocey, O'Donnell & Nugent

“That Waterford City and County Development Plan Wind Energy Map be amended so that the area centred on Tallow in West Waterford and currently shown in the Wind Energy Strategy Map of the Development Plan as Blue, (that is a “Preferred Area”) and the area north of this area coloured green (that is an area “Open for Consideration”) and south of Lismore be amended so that both these areas are changed to red and included in the “No Go Area”. We propose that the process that allows this change to take place commence immediately”.

Cllr. Tobin formally proposed the motion, seconded by Cllr. Pratt. Cllr. Whelan asked all Councillors to support the motion. Councillors added their views in support of the motion. Cllr. Conway expressed his view that he was not in favour of the motion citing the requirement for renewable energy.

The Chief Executive responded to the motion stating that it is the Executive who commences the variation of the development plan. He indicated that he will seek legal advice on the motion and will revert to council.

Cllr. Tobin asked Cllr. Conway to support the motion to give a unanimous decision or abstain. The Mayor asked for a show of hands for the motion, the result was 29 in favour and 1 against.

3. Planning

(a) Planning lists as circulated were noted.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked about planning in general and stated there is an increase in interest in residential planning in the Dunmore East area and in developing land that is landlocked; he proposes that the Dunmore East ring road go ahead as soon as possible. Cllr. Mulligan supports Cllr. Fitzgerald proposal.

Chief Executive replied that if there is a developer interested the Council is happy to engage with them.

4. Land Disposals

13331 – 75 year lease to Theatre Royal

Cllr. Roche asked for an explanation on the renewal of lease with Theatre Royal

F Reidy, A/DOS said this is 75 year lease to the Theatre Royal and confirmation of the terms of the lease.

13333 – Disposal at Corbally Upper, Tramore, Co. Waterford

Cllr. Hannigan and Cllr .Griffin queried the ‘undisputed occupation of property’. and Cllr. Conway asked if the decision could be postponed until the next meeting to inform the local Councillors of the issues. .
F Reidy, A/DOS said that it is an ‘undisputed occupation of the property’, there is no local dispute.
Chief Executive added that an ‘undisputed occupation of the property’ meant e.g. an adverse possession of the site.

Proposed by Cllr. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. Quinlan.

5. Monthly Management Report

Cllr. Wyse asked what are the actual new build figures and plans for building next year and the reason 60 landlords not complying with HAP inspections. Cllr. Daniels asked for an update on the Airport, progress report on CPOs on houses, an update on the Michael Street Development and outstanding funding regarding Storm Emma. Cllr. Whelan said that adults living at home with parents are deemed housed and asked can this be reviewed.

I Grimes, DOS stated the Council constructed 4 units in total in 2017, in addition to acquisitions and with current capital projects underway there will be over 100 new social housing units delivered in 2018. The 60 non-compliant HAP properties failed the national regulations for accommodation as new regulations were introduced last year including provision of fire hydrants and ventilation and generally these are a small cost for landlords to correct. He said 20 CPO notices were issued for City and County residential properties and more will issue. With regard to housing requirements of adults living with parents, this is dealt with on a case by case basis.

Chief Executive will organise briefing on the Airport. He said that the Michael St. development is aligned with the North Quays, title has to be clear on the properties in order to obtain funding

Cllr. Hearne thanked the housing department for additional community resources and asked if the Director of Services of Housing will meet with the group representing mortgage evictees.

Cllr .Cummins asked for an update on the North Quays with regard to the planning process and the CPOs and when are works due to start on the LIHAF projects for Kilbarry and Gracedieu. He highlighted that Councillors have to wait for six to seven weeks for a response to queries from some Departments within the Council and this needs to be addressed.

Cllr. Brennan asked for a date when road markings and cycle lanes programmes will commence, requested cutting back of hedgerows be less excessive and when the grass cutting tender is renewed can the collection of the cut grass be included.

I Grimes, DOS said with regard to meeting a group representing evictees, he pointed out the mortgage to rent scheme whereby the ownership of the mortgage can transfer to an approved housing body and owner can rent from them.

CE said regarding the CPO for the North Quays is primarily for infrastructural development and there is no impediment in this area, a number of objectors remain but the most substantive ones are resolved.

F. Galvin, DOS said that road marking contractors will be appointed shortly and he takes the point about hedgerows but if they are in dangerous areas with poor sightlines these need to be addressed. With regard to collection of cut grass the preferred option is mulching as there is a cost implication to collect it.

Cllr. J Murphy said that the car parks on the South Quays will not’ be in line with the development of the North Quays and could they be replaced by a green space and also asked how will the new builds be allocated and if there was any update from the Minister regarding the anomalies in the Tenant Purchase Scheme.

Cllr. Mulligan asked how many of the houses ‘in progress’ will be delivered by 30th June and by 31st December and asked who is responsible for bye-laws enforcement and asked for an update on funding for the North Quays. Cllr. R. Murphy asked about Walsh Park and called on the executive to engage with the Waterford County board. Cllr. Griffin asked if coasts can be patrolled at the weekend by a member of Council staff to assist the Gardai with regard to the bye-laws and anti-social behaviour and can funding be sought to extend the Greenway out towards Tallow and also to finish it off in Bilberry.

F. Galvin, DOS said the Council could not authorise staff to work at the weekend to patrol coast lines, enforcement in this case is the responsibility of the Gardai.

CE said that the car parks on the Quays will be looked at in the context of the overall design of the Quays which is being reviewed at present with regard to a Plaza for the pedestrian bridge; proposals will be brought to Council. A formal grant scheme is being launched at the end of the month and Council will make a submission. In terms of the Greenway he is not aware of European capital funding to support this and as there is a pending planning application due with regard to Walsh Park he cannot comment.

I Grimes, DOS said there is no update on the Tenant Purchase Scheme, he said eight Capital projects have started construction and another twelve have initial approval from the Department and will be coming on stream in next twelve to eighteen months and 50% will be allocated through CBL and will be writing to everyone on the housing list reminding them to keep updated with CBL.

B. Duggan, SEO said he will check the timelines regarding the LIHAF schemes and revert.

Cllr. Clune asked for an update on one-stop shop for homeless services, West Pharma and Weatherspoons and when contracts regarding the North Quays will be agreed. He asked if the quarry at Carroll's Cross is safe and can it be reviewed, also asked about maintenance of the Greenway as it is now overgrown.

Cllr. Conway asked if there were plans for seating on the Greenway and upgrading of the N24. He stated he will not support Weatherspoons development and asked due the heat if fans can be put in the Council Chamber.

Cllr. Brazil asked will areas with no land banks ever get social housing and he supports Cllr. Clune regarding the quarry at Carroll's Cross.

I Grimes, DOS said that the one-stop shop will consist of the HSE, ASB, Homeless Officers, Welfare Officers and will be open in July. The Council is reviewing availability of land in other towns and villages in the hope to acquire land to build social housing and he encourage members of the public and Councillors to bring any vacant properties to the Council's attention.

F. Galvin, DOS said there is fencing around the Greenway near the Roadstone quarry but will check in case there are any breaches but the quarry itself is on private land, and regarding maintenance of the Greenway it was deliberately left as natural with some cutting back in stretches to prevent overgrowth. There is some seating on the Greenway already but there is a significant cost to add more.

M. Walsh, CE said there is to be a meeting during the week regarding the signing of contracts for the North Quay and will look at providing fans for the Council Chamber.

Cllr. Hannigan asked a question earlier about homeless people looking for assistance at the customer services desk.

Cllr. Kelly congratulated Blackwater Distillery on winning the South Region in the National Enterprise Awards, he where accommodation will be provided for workers on the North Quays during the construction and asked if the Council is now in a position to hire staff or is there still an embargo. Highlighted difficulties with disability access to the Greenway and asked could painted signs/lines be put on the ground to assist, particularly at the Dungarvan side.

Cllr. O'Sullivan said that the quarry should be inspected and shutdown if not safe and regarding Bolton Street and camper van parking, can this be extended to other areas with council providing 2 or 3 'plug-in' units in areas along the Copper Coast.

I Grimes, DOS highlighted that homeless people that go to the CSD to see the Homeless Services Officer should not be turned away without seeing them and he will look into this and the number of homeless in management report last month and there was 20 families with children.

M. Walsh, CE said that the developer of North Quays will be considering the accommodation with the contractor and he said in relation to staff the council is still subject to approval by the Department and policy is not to increase overheads and shift resources as priorities arise.

F Galvin, DOS said he will have new signage going out on the Greenway shortly and he will monitor effectiveness, he said the quarry is on private land but he will look at the public access. He said the situation regarding camper vans was discussed at Transportation SPC at length and areas were identified.

Cllr. Pratt asked if there was funding available to extend the Greenway to Lismore and what is update on the feasibility study that was passed at a previous meeting. Also the number of HAP has dropped by 22% and what is the effect on homeless and has Air BnB affected housing and could Lismore have an electric car charging point.

Cllr. O'Leary disappointed that the Comeragh representation was reduced from 6 to 5 under the new boundary commission report and is there any form of appeal can be made.

Cllr. Roche said regarding the tourism development budget is the Council getting value for money, what resources are put into it and can the Council have a report on same.

I Grimes, DOS said according to anecdotal evidence the availability of private rented properties is affected by AIR BNB but the Council however is still bringing in 10-15 new HAP houses each week.

Chief Executive said regarding extending the Greenway to Lismore he does not consider that the feasibility study will change anything as 95% of the land ownership has transferred back to the landowners and is now agricultural land and to CPO this would be against current Government policy.

B. Duggan, SEO said a presentation will be given to the Metropolitan district on the Viking Triangle this month but there is no budget for marketing but could hold a workshop.

F Reidy, A/DOS letter to Minister to will be issued regarding the boundary extension

F. Galvin, DOS there are no sort term plans to put a charger in Lismore.

Cllr. Carey said there is an issue access to the docks at Cheekpoint and can this be looked at and there continues to be an issue with domestic rubbish at Woodstown Strand, requested 2 extra bins for the area.

Cllr O'Ryan outlined his concerns with the Boundary report and changes to the Comeragh district.

Extension to standing orders for 15 minutes proposed by Cllr. Brennan, seconded by Cllr. Hearne and agreed.

F Galvin, DOS said regarding the dock at Cheekpoint he will discuss this with the Harbour Chief and with regarding the dumping of domestic waste at Woodstown Strand he will he will ask GSS to check this area and look at the design of bins to prevent this.

6. Amendments to Standing Orders

The following amendments to the Standing Orders were proposed:

1. No recording of proceedings by members at the meetings;
2. Freedom of the city to be agreed following a case made to CPG and two thirds majority of those in attendance at the Plenary;
3. Changes to the configuration of membership of the Procedures Committee;
4. Chains of office for the Mayor of Waterford City and County Council and the Mayor / Chair of the Municipal Districts can be worn at events.

The procedures committee is to review other items and revert to the Plenary.

Proposed by Cllr. Cummins and seconded by Cllr. Clune and agreed.

7. Annual Report 2017

Proposed by Cllr. O' Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. Carey and agreed

8. Annual Financial Statement 2017 including Financial report

Annual Financial Statements 2017 / Financial Report, including Section 104 Schedule of Expenditure.

Proposed by Cllr. Kelly seconded by Cllr. Hannigan and agreed

Cllr. Cummins queried the bad debt provision and is there money allocated for this; going forward has provision to be made for bad debt.

J. Murphy, HOF said that the bad debt provision was in Appendix 7 of the report, rates rents and loans and it needs to be provided going forward.

9. Waterford City & County Council Draft Special Speed Limits Amendment Bye-Laws 2018- for Adoption

Proposed by Cllr. Carey, seconded by Cllr. Wyse and agreed.

10. Correspondence

Conferences and Receptions proposed by Cllr. Brennan, seconded by Cllr. Tobin and agreed.

11. Notice of Motions

1. Motion in the name of Cllr. Adam Wyse (deferred from April & May meeting)

- (a) "This motion calls on Waterford City and Council to outline its proposals to reach clean energy targets to ensure we avoid any possible fine
- (b) Commits to having an officer in place with specific responsibility for Smart City, to ensure Waterford is utilizing the best technologies available to improve our City and County."

Proposed by Cllr. Wyse, seconded by Cllr. Hannigan and agreed

2. Motion in the name of Cllr. Mary Roche (deferred)

"That in light of technological advances greatly reducing costs Waterford City & County Council will make provision to broadcast Plenary Council meetings (as a step towards broadcasting all public meetings) live via social media or other provision

3. Motion in the name of Cllr. Breda Brennan (deferred)

"That Waterford City and County Council calls on the Government, in line with a recent motion, unanimously adopted in the Dáil, to immediately abolish the 'Loco Parentis' clause in homecare nursing contracts for sick children".

4. Motion in the name of Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan (deferred)

"That Waterford City and County Council contact the Minister for Education Richard Bruton requesting that a building be secured for Educate Together in Tramore. Also request that an urgent review of Secondary school places is undertaken for both Tramore and Kilmacthomas with consideration for a possible additional secondary school for Tramore and an extension for Kilmacthomas in order to accommodate the increasing demands on both schools"

12. AOB

Cllr. Griffin extended an invitation to all Councillors to go to Waterford Airport on 29th/ 30th to see the artefacts found at Creadan Head.

Cllr. Conway asked for presentation by Údarás na Gaeltachta and requested CPG to extend an invitation to outline work to date.

Mayor congratulated John Murphy, HOF on his retirement and this was expressed by all Councillors. Meeting concluded.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____