

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting of the Metropolitan District held by Zoom on 21st June 2021 @ 5.00pm

Present:

Cllr. Davy Daniels, Mayor	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Joanne Bailey	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. Donal Barry	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Eamonn Quinlan
Cllr. Susan Gallagher	Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Seamus Ryan
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. Joe Kelly	Cllr. Adam Wyse

Apologies: None

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. C. O'Neill, SEE Roads
Ms. B. Stosic, A/SEE, Roads
Mr. D. Ó Murchadha, SEE Planning
Ms. A. O'Shea, Corporate Department

Roll call taken by meetings administrator.

Vote of Sympathies/Congratulations:

Votes of sympathy were expressed to the families of the late Katie Halley, Bill O'Donoghue, Marie Hayes, Bridget Battye, Tommy Bowman, Yvonne Starmer and Frances O'Brien.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 17th May, 2021 were proposed by Cllr. Roche seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald and agreed by all.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Conway stated that he has had no update regarding the illegal trading in Tramore and said that the problem has gotten much worse.

L. McGree, SP said he will follow up and check the status with the Enforcement Section.

Cllr. Power looked for update on the possible expansion of the Japanese Gardens in Tramore into Bookie Woods.

Cllr. O’Sullivan said that nothing has been done to re-instate the bridges in Newtown Woods and asked that at least one bridge could be provided.

Cllr. Mulligan and Cllr. Murphy stated that issues raised during meetings were taking a long time to deal with.

F. Galvin, DoS noted that discussions had been held with the trustees of the Japanese Gardens but the woods area was in private ownership and not available. He noted the comments with respect to progress on various issues and stated that in many cases these took some months to resolve and that he would be happy to provide detailed updates to the Council.

The Mayor welcomed Cllr. Joanne Bailey to her first Metropolitan meeting.

3. Reports

Cllr. Murphy looked for update on an entrance to the Nature Park from the north side of the city, he also has issues with the Council’s attitude to anti social behaviour citing a small private estate which the council allocated a house to a person with challenging issues causing ASB and distress to many residents in the estate.

Cllr. Roche looked for updates on the Greenway from Bilberry into the City, a plan for City Walls, the taking over of a public green area in Powerscourt by a tenant, asked for extended opening hours including weekends at Kilbarry Civic Amenity site and asked what the situation with the licensing of drinking of alcohol is outdoors. She also asked if representatives from Housing, Planning and relevant Councillors could meet to discuss the issues in Mount William before the issues escalate.

Cllr. F. Quinlan stated that the processing of Housing Adaptation and Mobility Grants is being delayed longer then the allocated 12 weeks and he asked if there was a resource issue. He suggested if this was the case could applications be frozen until the backlog is cleared. He also looked for update on his motion regarding development of the Goff Track and asked has it gone to the relevant SPC.

I. Grimes, DoS, said he would meet with Councillors/Planners to discuss Mount William and he will be appointing a Tenancy Management Officer once the estate is finished. He is aware of the ASB issue referred by Cllr. Murphy which is under investigation including engaging with other agencies. He stressed that all applicants are rigorously assessed, and Garda vetted. Regarding the backlog in processing Grant applications, he stated that there was an issue with staff assignments but that staff are now in place and he would hope that the backlog would be sorted soon and he would not be in favour of suspending the applications.

F. Galvin, DoS said he is looking at a number of options for entrance to Nature Park from the north side but would need to engage with owners of land to progress. The Greenway to City is at tender stage with works due to commence in the Autumn. He is aware of issues in Powerscourt, the environment section has engaged with the individuals to resolve the issue. He stated that the Civic Amenity Site had previously been open on Saturdays, but the extent of usage couldn’t justify the cost of the extended hours but that he would look at it again. He noted that the Section 254 Licence effectively extends the curtilage of a premises, it would be a matter for the licensee to ensure that the liquor license extends to this area but outside of that the sale and consumption of alcohol in a public area was illegal. He will bring up the development of the Goff track in the People’s Park at the July Environment SPC. He stated Rose Ryall the Conservation Officer was preparing the plans for the City Walls.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked when the Care & Repair Scheme would be back up and running in the Metropolitan area saying that it is badly needed. He asked that the fence that is to be re-erected between Williamstown Glen and Mount William needs to be of solid structure and the green areas and entrance to the estates

need to be looked at also there is an issue with quad bikes in the HSE grounds in John's Hill and this needs to be dealt with.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that the quad bikes are on private grounds and the Council has no role in this area.

Cllr. Hearne looked for update on the taking in charge of the Village and asked for information on the beach wheelchair in Tramore. He said that there has been great work dealing with homelessness by the integrated services and asked if the same approach could be used for anti social behaviour.

Cllr. Power stated Fleming's house on Strand Street is derelict and asked could the Council commence a CPO of the premises. He said the Hurt Hill walk is overgrown and needs cutting back and raised the issue of inadequate parking for De La Salle and Waterpark schools saying that it needs to be addressed before September. He asked have plans been put in place to deal with illegal parking at our beaches. He asked to be associated with the issues in Mount William/Williamstown Glen and that the letters from the residents be acknowledged.

F. Galvin, DoS stated the beach wheelchair should be available for use in Tramore and he will revert to Cllr. Hearne with details. He will talk to the Trails Officer regarding the Hurt Hill walk and he has no immediate plans regarding parking for schools on the Dunmore Road stating there are not many options due to the restricted location. The Council, has following consultation with the Gardai, installed double yellow lines and no parking signs on roads leading on to and adjacent to many of the beaches and that the Gardai have committed to enforcement in these areas.

D. Ó Murchadha, SEE said he is waiting on reports from water and roads and would be hopeful of recommending the taking in charge of the Village shortly. He has been in contact with the developers of Mount William and will organise a joint meeting of the residents and Councillors in due course.

Cllr. Griffin asked who would be responsible for private houses that have been taken over by NAMA and have become derelict and rodent infested as people living adjacent state they are paying Property Tax and are entitled to a service. He asked if the outdoor seating which is very welcome could be policed regularly as it is causing people to have to walk on the road with oncoming traffic.

Cllr. Barry looked for update on the entrance into Ballybeg stating that the temporary railings have been in place for 2 years. He asked if a stone wall could be erected to enhance the entrance. Could the Dr. Noel Browne memorial be cleaned up and replanted and 2 trees be replaced, and cobble stones be fixed. He looked for a railing to be erected on the wall on the lower promenade in Tramore as there is a dangerous drop from the wall to the beach and is a health & safety concern. Could the owners of the Toll bridge be contacted to run a publicity campaign to encourage people to use the bridge and help ease the traffic situation in the city he also asked that signs be erected at the roundabouts leading into the city encouraging use of the bridge.

Cllr. Gallagher asked for details of the management company for the Appollonian Apartments on Gallwey's Hill, Tramore. She looked for update on the toilet that was due to be installed for the Traveller site on the Green Road. She enquired about new bottle bins in the People's Park and the City Centre. She supported Cllr. Griffin for the footpath spaces to be policed stating that it is an issue in the Applemarket and Tramore and asked what the guidelines are.

F. Galvin DoS said he will have a look at the entrance to Ballybeg but stated there would be no budget to build a stone wall, the Noel Browne memorial is on the list to be planted and cleaned, he will check out the drop on to the beach on the lower Promenade and stated that this is due to the movement of sand during storms etc. He would be happy to talk to the owners of the toll bridge asking them to run a publicity campaign to encourage people to use the bridge and take pressure off city centre traffic. He is acquiring more bins for plastic bottle/can recycling and these will be installed shortly. The Council is actively policing a number of conflicts arising between the need for safe pedestrian access and outdoor dining.

I. Grimes, DoS stated the Care and Repair scheme is run by Waterford Area Partnership who have an interim manager in place to review all operations but is hoping to re-introduce the scheme soon. He stated

that all agencies work closely together with all aspects of the Council. He said there is a vacant homes officer who engages with owners to try and improve the sites and asked Cllr. Griffin for details of house he referred to and the toilet is due to be installed in the site on the Green Road within the next few days.

Cllr. O'Sullivan asked if a temporary one way system could be put in place from Carrigeenlea to Newtown Woods to alleviate the traffic congestion during the summer months, she stated the toilets at the Pier need to be opened, she complimented the great work the lifeguards are doing and also the environment team for their great work on keeping the toilets on the Lower Prom and by the amusements clean and looked for update on the footpaths and lights from Newtown Hill to Newtown Glen. She asked if anything could be done to prevent the illegal campsite at Pebble Beach.

Cllr. E. Quinlan asked what steps the Council are taking to ensure the safety of contractors working for the Council following intimidation issues in Gracedieu. He asked for the seats on Ballybricken Green to be turned in to face the green or replaced with picnic benches and looked for update on the Tramore Railway Station stating that he has received another expression of interest and stated that something needs to be actively done with the building.

Cllr. Bailey thanked her fellow councillors for their welcome. She asked if the roads in Ursuline Court and Kilcohan road junction were on the current Road Works Programme as they need to be resurfaced. She looked for update on the proposed new entrance to the Nature Park from Ballybeg and stated that the fence at Cherrymount bridge needs to be repaired.

F. Galvin, DoS said he will look at a temporary one-way system at Carrigeenlea on a pilot basis. He has appointed contractors to refurbish the toilets on the Pier these will open as soon as the work is complete. Consultants have been appointed to prepare a survey and design brief for the footpath/cycle lane at Newtown Glen and following on from this will come back to the Council to commence the Part 8. He agrees with Cllr. Quinlan regarding the facing of the benches on Ballybricken Green and will check it out. He hopes to have an alternative access to the Nature Park from Ballybeg before end of current year and will ask his open spaces team to check the fence in Cherrymount.

C. O'Neill, SEE confirmed that the roads in Ursuline Court and Kilcohan road junction are not on this year's Road Works programme but that he will review for next year's programme.

D. Ó Murchadha, SEE said he is reviewing the issues with the contractors in Gracedieu and is hopeful of resolving the problems.

Cllr. Mulligan stated that last year the playground in Railway Square was removed which he was opposed to and it is now empty. He said that the entrance from the Cork Road into the City is devoid of flowers and needs immediate attention in line with Dungarvan. He asked if a workshop could be arranged on the possibility of a future park at Williamstown Golf Course and looked for an update on the outdoor gym equipment in Farronshoneen Park. He said there are 6,000 teenagers in the East of the City with no outdoor facilities and something needs to be done. He also looked for an update on the parasols for the city centre.

Cllr. Ryan asked if a disability swing could be provided in the People's Park and in other parks stating it would be of great benefit to the children. He asked that the Council engage with the residents of Spring Garden Alley to resolve issues due to the re-opening of outdoor dining etc. He also asked that the plaque commemorating the Spanish Civil War at the Bishop's Palace be reinstated. He looked for an update on the Yellow House and the Waterford Crystal site stating that they are on the main entrance to the City and need to be cleaned up and also agreed with Cllr. Barry with the condition of the Noel Brown memorial.

Cllr. F. Quinlan agreed with Cllr. Mulligan regarding the outdoor gym equipment and asked that it be expanded in the People's Park and in Tramore. He looked for update on the taking in charge of Kill St. Lawrence and supported Cllr. E. Quinlan on issues with seating in Ballybricken Green but also asked that an extra bin be provided to avoid littering. He commended the great work the Environment Department have done with dog fouling prevention stating that it has improved.

Cllr. Kelly stated that the footings on the barriers at the Applemarket are protruding onto the footpath and are a safety risk and asked that an alternative plan be put in place. He also asked that the plaques commemorating the International Brigade at Bishop's Palace be reinstated.

Cllr. Conway asked could enforcement look at 'Katie Reilly's' property on the Tramore as it is derelict and needs to be fixed up.

On the presentation issues, F. Galvin, DoS stated that it has been extremely difficult in the current year reaching on all of the normal works due to the Covid working restrictions, that there was currently a significant backlog of work and resources are currently being prioritised on finishing the summer floral displays and grass cutting. He also noted that the Council has recently recruited 2 craft gardeners to focus on the city parks and city centre public realm areas and was confident that this would improve matters. Plans are being prepared for a pocket park area at Railway Square, adult gym equipment is on order for Farronshoneen Park which should be in place over the next few weeks. He would be happy to facilitate a workshop on the Williamstown Golf Course. The Council is committed to providing more disabled access equipment in all parks. He will engage with residents of Spring Garden Alley once plans are available and will look at relocating the plaque in Bishops Palace Garden.

D. Ó Murchadha, SEE said the taking in charge of Kill St. Lawrence is complete and should come before the Council soon. He has been in contact with the owners of 'Katie Reilly's' and they have given a commitment to undertake repair works to improve the overall presentation of the building.

4. Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended Planning & Development Regulations 2001 as amended Part V111: Construction of Three Banner Poles and new railings at Bishop's Palace Waterford, a Protected Structure.
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Proposed by Cllr. O'Sullivan and seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed.

Cllr. Mulligan and Cllr. Kelly wanted it noted that they do not support the Part 8 stating that it is a protected structure and plans showing the visual impact on the building have not been provided.

L. McGree, SP stated that the conservation officer has approved the works which would not negatively impact on the Bishop's Palace and recommended approval. He notified councillors of the intention of Economic Development Section to publish a Part 8 in relation to ramp linking the Abbey Road to Greenway.

5. 2021 Footpath Programme

F. Galvin, DoS gave overview of the Footpath Programme which had been circulated with the agenda and also updated on the Active Travel Programme which provides significant works on footpaths.

The Programme was proposed by Cllr. Roche and seconded by Cllr. Ryan and agreed.

Councillors raised a number of issues including the inclusion of footpaths in housing estates, the need to hold workshops in future years, the proposed Green Route from WIT to the City centre, for tree roots to be protected as much as possible, if money from LPT is part of the funding and is the proposed footpath between Bishop's Field and Kilcarragh included in the Programme.

F. Galvin, DoS, stated that footpaths in estates are included in the programme, trees are protected as much as possible and money from LPT goes into the funding of the Programme. The cycle lane from WIT to City centre is advanced to design stage with a view to commencement of some works before end of year and the Bishop's Field to Kilcarragh footpath will be included in the Active Travel Scheme.

6. Proposed one way system at Hennessy's Road

F. Galvin, DoS presented a report on this matter which had been circulated with the agenda noting that a proposed one-way system between Matties Hill and College Street went out for public consultation and that the results were inconclusive in terms of the proposal. He noted a one-way system in either direction is the only way to get sufficient road space to provide adequate space for a footpath and it was open to the meeting for discussion.

In the ensuing discussion there was general agreement that a one-way system should be advanced with the direction of the traffic being outbound. The question of knocking the convent wall to widen the road was asked and F. Galvin said that there were protected structures and an historic graveyard adjacent that would rule out this. He noted direction of traffic to be outbound and will take proposal away to process.

7. Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 – Traffic Calming Scheme Horsequarter, Dunmore East - Improvement Works

The report had been circulated with the agenda and the recommendation to proceed with the works as presented was proposed by Cllr. Roche and seconded by Cllr Power and agreed by all.

8. Correspondence

None

9. Motions

Motion in the name of Cllr. Mary Roche

“That Waterford City & County Council would contact the Health Service Executive with a view to exploring the feasibility of developing the unused buildings at St Otterans into housing.”

Reg. No. 57 (dated 8th June, 2021)

Proposing the motion Cllr. Roche asked that the Council contact the HSE with a view to developing the unused buildings at St. Otteran's into housing, seconded by Cllr. O'Sullivan and agreed. Councillors fully supported the motion and asked if it could be sent to the HSE at a national level, also concern was raised regarding the condition of these buildings.

Motion in the names of Cllr. Jody Power & Cllr. Susan Gallagher

“That Waterford City & County Council establish forthwith a subscribed Memorial Arboretum at suitable locations within the Metro area to facilitate the celebration of the memory of loved ones with a living indigenous tree. A suggested initial managed location is Kilbarry Nature Park.”

Reg. No. 58 (dated 8th June, 2021)

Cllr. Power proposed the motion, seconded by Cllr. Gallagher and agreed by all.

Motion in the names of Cllrs. Jim Griffin, Pat Fitzgerald, Joanne Bailey, John Hearne, Susan Gallagher, Mary Roche, Donal Barry, Joe Conway, Seamus Ryan, Joe Kelly, Lola O'Sullivan, Frank Quinlan, Jody Power, Davy Daniels, Adam Wyse, Eamon Quinlan, Eddie Mulligan & Jason Murphy

“ That Waterford City & County Council:

- recognises the strong bonds of friendship and solidarity that exist between Ireland and Palestine;*
- commends Dáil Éireann for taking a strong and unanimous stand in support of the Palestinian people;*
- notes the existing links between civil society groups in Waterford and Ramallah, including amongst schools, religious congregations, sports clubs, youth groups and the trade union movement.*
- signals its desire to twin with the Ramallah Municipality”*

Reg. No. 59 (dated 15th June, 2021)

Cllr. Fitzgerald proposed the motion, seconded by Cllr. Roche and unanimously agreed by all.

F. Galvin, DoS said the function of town twinning is for the Plenary Council but must be considered by CPG to go on the Plenary Agenda.

10. AOB

Cllr. E. Quinlan asked if one of the two unused Casual Trading Licences in Tramore be moved to Newtown Cove to facilitate a business selling coffee, resulting in no increase in the number of licences.

Cllr. O’Sullivan said the Economic SPC has had numerous discussions and extensive public consultation on Casual Trading and further discussions are planned for the next SPC meeting.

Cllr. Griffin supported Cllr. Quinlan and said Casual Trading needs to be re-visited with the change in dynamics.

Cllr. Power wished to thank Minister O’Gorman for coming down to Waterford to raise the Pride flag stating that Waterford was an inclusive, progressive and educated City.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____