

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting of the Metropolitan District held by Zoom on 15th March, 2021 @ 5.00pm

Present:

Cllr. Davy Daniels, Mayor	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Breda Brennan	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. M. Partridge, EA Housing
Mr. P. Johnston, SRE Housing
Ms. A. O’Shea, Corporate Department

The Mayor welcomed the funding announcement of €26.7M under the Urban Regeneration Fund saying that it was good news for the City and it was an exciting time for all citizens creating an opportunity to live, work and play in public areas. He thanked all the public representatives and Council staff for their efforts in achieving this funding.

Cllr. E. Quinlan said on behalf of Fianna Fail he welcomed the announcement stating it will give a new lease of life to the City, he thanked all the Council staff for their hard work.

Cllr. Griffin spoke on behalf of Sinn Féin he welcomed the announcement of funding stating that it showed great professionalism of the staff of the Council and it will bring great vibrancy to the City.

Cllr. Roche spoke on behalf of the Independents and welcomed the news stating that it was very positive and opens up the vision for the City, she thanked all the Council staff.

Cllr. Ryan spoke on behalf of the Labour party and welcomed the funding and said it would be a game changer for the City but asked that businesses and residents be consulted during the planning process.

Cllr. F. Quinlan spoke on behalf of Fine Gael and welcomed the funding announcement stating it was good news and will bring new vibrancy to the City, he thanked all the Council staff.

Cllr. Power spoke on behalf of the Green Party also welcomed the funding announcement stating it was exciting times and he was especially delighted with the pocket parks bringing biodiversity into the City.

Vote of Sympathies/Congratulations:

Votes of sympathy were expressed to the families of the late Dermot Blount, Mary Butler, Johnny Rogan, Paddy O'Neill, Pat Hearne and Richard Crowley. A minute's silence was observed for the deceased.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 15th February, 2021 were proposed by Cllr. Kelly seconded by Cllr. Conway and agreed by all.

Minutes from the Special Metropolitan Meeting held on 22nd February, 2021 were proposed by Cllr. Kelly seconded by Cllr. Conway and agreed by all.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Roche looked for update on the opening up of the Kingfisher car park.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked for update on the berthing facilities in the City.

Cllr. Mulligan asked why the Retail Strategy was not circulated to members.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that approaches had been made to Kingfisher, but no agreement had reached as yet. He raised the issue of berthing on the North Quays with the Economic Development Department.

Cllr. F. Quinlan looked for update on plans for the Goff Track and plans to clean up the Millennium Plaza.

Cllr. Power looked for an update on the algae bloom on Belle Lake.

F. Galvin, DoS said no progress has been made on plans for the Goff Track, but he will bring the matter to the Environment SPC shortly. It is planned to undertake cleaning works on the Plaza over the next few months but is currently restricted with COVID. He stated that the algae bloom is being monitored on Belle Lake and there has been no increase but the lake is subject to regular monitoring.

L. McGree, SP stated that the Retail Strategy has gone back to the firm of Consultants to clarify some details but said that the strategy forms part of the draft Development Plan which will be brought to the April Plenary meeting for consideration.

Cllr. Mulligan asked what the reasons are the plan is gone back to the consultants stating he is waiting 6 months for this plan and that the businesses in the City need to have sight of it.

L. McGree, SP stated the Retail Strategy is an integral part of the Development Plan and will come before the Plenary council next month for consideration.

3. Planning - Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended Planning & Development Regulations 2001 as amended Part V111:

b). Group Housing Scheme, Green Road, Waterford; 5 no. new single-storey dwellings

I. Grimes, DoS advised that concerns had been raised in relation to the Part 8 Site Notices at the Green Road and the public consultation process. He stated that he was absolutely satisfied that the measures taken met the legal requirements of the Part 8 process. However, in the interest of fairness and to allow any persons who may wish to make a submission on the proposed development to do so, the scheme will not be put to the District meeting for a decision. Instead, it is proposed to re-advertise the proposed development for public consultations immediately and effectively recommence the Part 8 process which will revert to the Council in due course.

- a). **22 & 23 Thomas Hill, Waterford;** 3x no. 2-bed Social Housing apartments by means of the refurbishment of existing vacant properties.

M. Partridge, EA, gave an overview of the refurbishment proposal.

Cllr. Ryan asked if the architectural integrity of the houses would be maintained. Cllr Mulligan had reservations with the cost and stated he would not be supporting the Part 8. Cllr. Griffin asked if costs could be looked at. Cllr. Barry was happy that the properties were being put back into use and stated he would support the motion. Cllr. Hearne said it was a great investment. Cllr. E. Quinlan stated the properties were in disrepair and needed to be brought back to life and Cllr. Power said that the properties were value for money. P. Johnston, SRE stated that one of the properties had been vacant for 20 years and stated that value for money is always their priority. I. Grimes, DoS stated the Scheme has been approved for 100% funding and is fully supported by the Department of Housing. M. Partridge, EA stated that the design will be in accordance with the architectural integrity of the buildings.

It was proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. E. Quinlan to proceed with the development.

The proposal for the Completion of the Part VIII was put to a recorded vote resulting as follows:

For	Against
Cllr. Donal Barry	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. Breda Brennan	
Cllr. Joe Conway	
Cllr. Davy Daniels	
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	
Cllr. Susan Gallagher	
Cllr. Jim Griffin	
Cllr. John Hearne	
Cllr. Joe Kelly	
Cllr. Jason Murphy	
Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan	
Cllr. Jody Power	
Cllr. Eamon Quinlan	
Cllr. Frank Quinlan	
Cllr. Mary Roche	
Cllr. Seamus Ryan	
Cllr. Adam Wyse	
Total 17	Total 1

This proposal was passed by 17 votes in favour and one against.

- c). **Affordable Housing, Carrickphierish Road, Waterford; 28 no. serviced sites for 3-bed semi-detached dwellings (subject to demand, detailed design and planning) on a local authority owned site.**

M. Partridge, EA, gave an overview of the proposal stating that the number of serviced sites had been reduced to 26 to facilitate drainage issues. Cllr. Kelly proposed the Part 8 but raised concerns about the area between site Nos. 16 and 17 and asked for a usable space to be planned in order to avoid anti social behaviour. He welcomes the scheme but stated it needs to be planned properly at the next stage. Cllr. F. Quinlan seconded the proposal and fully supports it. Cllr. E. Quinlan supports the proposal and thanked all the staff he said that the way forward is for affordable housing schemes for the area. Cllr. Gallagher also had concerns re the area between sites 16 & 17 and asked was there any discussions with the residents of Hillview re walkway through site. Cllr. Barry supported the proposal stating that providing an affordable housing scheme will give people an opportunity to secure their own home. Cllr. Griffin asked that there be dialogue with the residents of the area via zoom if necessary. M. Partridge, EA said that no discussion has taken place with the residents of Hillview but this can take place at the next part of the Part 8.

It was agreed unanimously to proceed with the Part 8.

- d). **7 Traveller bays at Carrickphierish. a) Seven number bays, each with its own 30m2 day house. b) Supporting development works include (i) a single standalone Welfare Facility, (ii) temporary construction signage;(iii) drainage and (iv) all associated site works.**

M. Partridge, EA, gave an overview of the scheme stating that it will regularise the site and provide safe accommodation for existing families on site. Cllr. Hearne had issues with the unauthorised mobile home on site and would not be supporting. Cllr. O'Sullivan said problems had not been dealt with she stated it was unfair to the residents in the area and would not be supporting. Cllr. F. Quinlan said he would not be supporting and stated that there was a lot of anti social behaviour in the area and people were afraid to walk past. Cllr. Kelly stated he would not be supporting as the proposed site for the bays was originally a temporary measure to help the Travellers against Covid 19 by giving them more space and providing running water and toilet facilities. Cllr. Roche said traveller accommodation is a hard decision to make but she said until the Council can demonstrate that they have the capacity to manage sites she could not be supporting. Cllr. Barry stated he would not be supporting because of the planning issues involved. Cllr. Power stated he would not be supporting as it does not take into consideration the cultural requirements of the families which is also the situation in the Crescent, John's Park. Cllr. Gallagher agreed that problems with anti social behaviour and lack of amenities need to be addressed but the provision of safer accommodation needs to be provided so she will be supporting. Cllr. Fitzgerald said he would not be supporting stating that the Planning Laws were flouted. Cllr. Mulligan stated that a better proposal should be considered and also planning issues needed to be resolved so he would not be supporting. Cllr. Conway stated that due to Planning issues and the number of submissions he would not be supporting he also said the Council are responsible in educating all in the Community and Travellers. Cllr. Wyse stated it is the Council's responsibility to uphold the laws especially the planning laws and he asked what action had been taken for the unauthorised chalet and was there a timeline for removal. He said he would not be supporting the scheme. Cllr. Murphy said we would be setting up a dangerous precedent in relation to law enforcement if we supported the proposal so therefore he would not be supporting. Cllr. Ryan stated issues need to be dealt with and asked if voted down what is the next step. He will be

supporting the Part 8. Cllr. Brennan asked if the Part 8 could be deferred until the planning issues were sorted. She would not be supporting the motion. Cllr. F, Quinlan said he would not be supporting until all issues were dealt with. I. Grimes, DoS stated anti-social behaviour issues were being dealt with our Tenancy Management and the Gardai and said that anti social behaviour is not exclusive to the travellers.

The proposal for the Completion of the Part VIII was put to a recorded vote resulting as follows:

For	Against
Cllr. Susan Gallagher	Cllr. Donal Barry
Cllr. Seamus Ryan	Cllr. Breda Brennan
	Cllr. Joe Conway
	Cllr. Davy Daniels
	Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
	Cllr. Jim Griffin
	Cllr. John Hearne
	Cllr. Joe Kelly
	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
	Cllr. Jason Murphy
	Cllr. Lola O’Sullivan
	Cllr. Jody Power
	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
	Cllr. Frank Quinlan
	Cllr. Mary Roche
	Cllr. Adam Wyse
Total 2	Total 16

This proposal was defeated by 16 votes against and 2 in favour.

e). **Proposed Construction of Three Banner Poles and new railings at Bishop’s Palace Waterford, a Protected Structure.**

L. McGree, SP gave an overview of the Part 8 stating that the height of the glass railing would be 1.1M. Cllr, Mulligan proposed the Part 8, and this was seconded by Cllr. Wyse and agreed by all.

f). **Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 – New Pedestrian Crossing at Barrack Street, Waterford –Final Report.**

F. Galvin, DoS presented the new proposal. Following discussions re. pedestrian lights, car parking and sight lines the Part 8 was proposed by Cllr. Ryan seconded by Cllr. Barry and agreed by all that this was the best proposal for public safety.

It was proposed by Cllr. Daniels and seconded by Cllr. Wyse to suspend Standing Orders to deal with Item No. 5 before Item No. 4.

5. Traffic Management Proposal for Hennessey's Road – One way system

F. Galvin, DoS stated this proposal was brought about due to the inadequacy of pedestrian safety on this area of Hennessey's Road and if agreed by Council it would be put out for public consultation. All Councillor's welcomed this proposal but had reservations as to the direction of traffic. F. Galvin, DoS said it was the more effective route. It was agreed by all for the proposal to go out for public consultation.

4. Reports

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked if the Council had any plans for social/affordable houses in the east of the County and looked for update on road works at Horse Quarter asking if they could be completed before the start of the tourist season. He also asked if the Council could help parishes to maintain their graveyards which is very costly, and finances greatly reduced due to the closure of churches as a result of Covid restrictions. Cllr. Conway noted the drains on the Prom need to be cleared as a matter of urgency. He asked when will the Beach Guard Hut in Tramore be refurbished and stated the western groynes on the beach needs to be repaired urgently. The concrete seats on the Ladies Slip need to be reinforced and he thanked staff for the works done at the men's slip.

Cllr. Sullivan requested a yellow box be painted on the road at access point for the Doneraile, the steps and rail at the Guillamene have been damaged and need to be repaired and thanked the swimming club for their great work. Requested update on the Casual Trading Byelaws and acknowledged the Library staff for their great work in keeping people connected during these unprecedented times.

Cllr. Wyse asked for a review of all traffic lights to make sure they are up to standard following an accident at Scoil Lorcain.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that roadworks for Dunmore East will commence once restrictions are lifted but he cannot guarantee if the works will be completed before the Summer season commences. He said had no remit to or budget to provide support to cemeteries other than those directly operated by the Council. He will have areas engineer check the blocked drains on the Prom, the damage to the slipway, and Guillamene and the groynes on the beach. He stated the Council will be advertising for expressions of interest for pitches under the Casual Trading Byelaws.

B. Stosic, A/SEE stated will undertake a review of all traffic lights and asked for location of the traffic accident.

I. Grimes, DoS stated he had consulted with his supply team to look at options for social housing in the East of the County but currently had nothing to report. He has a limited budget regarding beach lifeguards and H & S equipment would be his priority but will look at the Beach Guard Hut.

Cllr. Ryan requested update on public lighting in the People's Park stating that there was an incident there recently. He stated that due to Covid restrictions people had a difficulty filling out Housing applications forms and asked if there were any plans for an online application form. He also looked for an update on the bike rental scheme stating that it would need to be up and running for the tourist season.

Cllr. Roche asked if a study could take place to look at extending the river-walk on the Dunmore Road into the city centre stating it could take a lot of bicycles from the busy Dunmore Road and make it safer for cyclists. She asked if the hoarding outside the Menapia Building could be removed before the start of the tourist season and looked for plans to light up the city walls and if the Council had ever given consideration to having a park dedicated to dogs as is in place in a lot of European cities.

Cllr. Murphy supported Cllr. Ryan's calls to put lighting in the People's Park and asked for funding to be sought. He looked for update on an alternative entrance to the Eco Park at Lacken Wood, asked could cattle grids be put in place at entrance to Kilbarry cemetery and how often the rubbish bins are power washed in the city centre.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that there is no funding source for public lighting in the People's Park stating that it would cost approx €120-€150K and perhaps funding could be allocated in next year's Budget. The bike rental scheme is being introduced by the NTA and due to the current restrictions, it is hoped to have it rolled out by Autumn of this year. There are plans to add two sections to the Riverwalk at Maypark and Snowcream and funding has been received from NTA for a feasibility study to be carried out on extending the walk to the City Centre. Contractors are due on-site next week to resolve issues on the Menapia building and hoarding will be removed as soon as works are completed. A survey has been taken on LED lighting for the City walls and he will check what other LA's are doing regarding dog parks. He is consulting with the Planning Department. to look at best options for access to the Eco Park and the gates into Kilbarry Cemetery should be closed with pedestrian access only. He also stated that the rubbish bins are cleaned on a regular basis.

I. Grimes, DoS stated they are looking at online application and portal at a National level but stated that the Housing team are available by phone to assist applicants.

Cllr. Daniels asked if the area engineer could check out the River Walk at King's Channel as there are large tyre tracks making it unsafe for walking.

Cllr. Brennan asked why there were no housing inspections and Homeless figures on the Housing Report, could the double yellow lines be reinstated in Lower Grange as the weather forecast is good and thanked the Council for lighting up the city green for St. Patrick's Day. She asked on behalf of Cllr. Griffin for an update on the public realm works in Tramore.

Cllr. Mulligan congratulated the Council on lighting up the TF Meagher Bridge green and asked if it could be lit the whole year round. He asked could cycling lanes be fast tracked for the Dunmore Road and Williamstown area stating that footpath and lights need to be installed on the Killea Road.

F. Galvin, DoS will look into the road lining issue at Lower Grange. The public realm works in Tramore are due to be completed by early August, the green lights on TF Meagher Bridge are a temporary installation and the matter would have to be taken up with TII and CRG and he will talk to the area engineer about works at Killea Road stating that it was not on the RW list. He noted that the council was intending to undertake an overall traffic management plan for cycling and active travel on the Dunmore Road.

I. Grimes, DoS noted the housing statistics are on the monthly Plenary report but said that housing inspections are only being done on an emergency basis and there were less than 10 inspections this month which is down by 90% due to Level 5 restrictions.

Cllr. Gallagher asked for an update on the Tramore allotments site and on the timeline for the Bilberry to City Centre Greenway and noted that the uncontrolled pedestrian crossing in Ballybricken needs to be looked at as it's a safety concern.

Cllr. Kelly asked for update on the lighting and the opening of the toilets on the Pier in Tramore.

Cllr. E. Quinlan asked for an update on the pocket parks for next meeting and suggested having one in Carrickphierish. He also stated the lights are not working on the memorial on the Prom and asked could anything be done to encourage joggers to use the footpath on the Tramore Road between Kingfisher and the Ballindud roundabout as it is very dangerous to run on the hard shoulder.

Cllr. Barry stated the residents of Lacken Wood had concerns with access on to the Eco Park from their estate stating it would create extra traffic and he suggested having an entrance from the RSC. He also stated that cars are parking on or near the pedestrian crossing at O'Regan's shop in St. John's Park and are causing a danger to pedestrians and drivers.

Cllr. Power stated that Coillte are disposing of lands in Cheekpoint, and he was wondering if the Council had any plans to use it for Community purposes. He said that the footpaths in the People's Park are cracked and need to be fixed and could the width be extended to 3M to allow for the number of people using the park to pass safely. Waterford Walls are proposing to paint a mural on 5 walls at Ballybeg facing the Cork Road but are looking for funding and he asked if there would be any funding available to do this project,

Cllr. Hearne asked if there any plans for a crematorium due to the proposed growth in our population, he asked if the council could talk to the Harbour Master in Dunmore East to ask that the breakwater area be made safe for use by the fishermen and public and he asked was there any plans for the Council lands opposite Foxwood Estate stating it needs to be cleaned up.

F. Galvin, DoS said that works will commence on the Greenway between Bilberry and City Centre this Summer and will take 18 months to complete so it should be finished before end of 2022. He will review the uncontrolled pedestrian crossings in Ballybricken and will reinstate signs if necessary. The lighting on the Pier in Tramore was part of the refurbishment works and lights have been ordered and should be in place next month and work on the public toilets are deemed non essential but he hopes to have them opened before the Summer. The lights on the Memorial on the Prom have been fixed numerous times and get a battering from storms due to their position on the Prom but he will have a look at it again. He stated they are looking at a number of options for access to the Eco Park and will come back to Council with proposals. He said the parking at or near the pedestrian crossing in St. John's Park is an issue of driver behaviour. He is not aware of Coillte lands being sold but he said that the council would not be in a position to take on an additional park in the area. He will have the area engineer look at the surface of the paths in the People's Park and see if there is a capacity to widen them. The provision of a crematorium is a private matter and would have to go through the Planning process and he will talk to the Harbour Master in Dunmore East re. the breakwater surface.

I. Grimes DoS stated that he has no update on the Tramore allotments, property management are engaging with the committee but that it was difficult to identify suitable lands as land is at a premium in Tramore. He will look at the proposals from Waterford Walls and would be willing to support but would have to look at costs.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Motions

Deferred to April meeting.

8. AOB

Cllr. Conway asked if his motion could be heard regarding the bridges in Newtown Woods and requested a commitment from the Council that works will not proceed until consultation with local people begins.

F. Galvin, DoS that the Council is contractually obligated for the provision of the new bridges in Newtown Woods as the existing structures are unsafe and urgently need to be fixed.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Mayor