

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting of the Metropolitan District held by Zoom on 17th May, 2021 @ 5.00pm

Present:

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| 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. N. Curtin, Chief Fire Officer
Mr. A. Kirwan, EE Roads
Mr. J. Gallagher, EE Roads
Ms. B. Stosic, A/SEE, Roads
Ms. B. Duggan SEO, Economic Development
Mr. P. Johnston, SRE Housing
Mr. A. Lennon, EE Housing
Ms. A. O'Shea, Corporate Department

Meetings Administrator carried out roll call for attendance.

Vote of Sympathies/Congratulations:

Votes of sympathy were expressed to the families of the late PJ Hayes, Anne O'Brien and John Fitzgerald

Votes of congratulations expressed to Brid Golden on her appointment as Vice President of Irish Athletics and Chair of Coaching & Development Committee.

A speedy recovery was extended to Henry de Bromhead's wife.

The Mayor stated that following a workshop earlier with the Chief Executive the development at the North Quays and Michael Street will not be proceeding with the current partners. He said it is disappointing but is hopeful that the development will attract new investors and that its vital for Waterford.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 19th April, 2021 were proposed by Cllr. O'Sullivan seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Barry asked for update on the purchase of the Waterford Crystal Sports Centre. F. Galvin noted that this not included in the Council's Capital Programme and that the Council would not be in a position to acquire it. Cllr. Power looked for update on the funding for the 5 murals in Ballybeg as part of the Waterford Walls project. F. Galvin said he will raise with the Community Section.

Cllr. Ryan looked for update on the 2 derelict buildings on the Cork Road – former Waterford Crystal site and Yellow House. L. McGree stated that he is in discussions with the owners of the Waterford Crystal site and there is planning permission in place for the site. He stated that there were ownership issues with the Yellow House but these have been resolved and he will be contacting the owner in the next few days.

B. Duggan gave an update on the Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Scheme stating that closing date for applications to Failte Ireland was the 27th May. He said this was a work in progress and he gave an overview of the plans providing specially designed high quality parasols creating hubs within the City Centre which it was intended would give vibrancy to the city centre. He noted that liaison was ongoing with businesses on the proposals.

Cllr. Ryan asked what the proposed start date was and the total cost of scheme.

Cllr. Murphy while welcoming the scheme had reservations to the maintenance of the parasols. He also asked if the inner city residents were consulted stating there may be issues with ASB with outdoor drinking.

Cllr. Gallagher asked if the needs of disabled persons were considered for access on to streets.

Cllr. E. Quinlan asked if the covered area in the Applemarket was part of the plans, could the trading times be extended to 10:00pm and could Ballybricken be included in the scheme.

Cllr. Kelly had reservations regarding maintenance of parasols stating they could be an eyesore. He also stated that health & safety could be an issue and has to be considered re trip hazards.

Cllr. Hearne asked if the scheme could be extended to areas outside the City centre.

Cllr. Mulligan asked if this scheme formed part of the Failte Ireland Grant of €250K for outdoor public spaces. He also asked if planters could be considered for the Applemarket and asked that all health & safety regulations be enforced for trip hazards there.

Cllr. F. Quinlan suggested that the businesses could be provided with a bin with their logo and this would make them responsible for the rubbish around their area.

B. Duggan said he would hope to start the scheme immediately after the closing date of applications on the 27th May and the value of the scheme would be approximately €200-€230K which would be fully recovered. He proposes to talk to business owners and residents to discuss scheme and their responsibility of the parasols in the coming week. The parasols will be supplied with heating/lighting/side screen/planters where applicable and accessibility has been considered. The scheme is for City Centre only and business owners would be encouraged to extend their opening hours. Planters are planned for the Applemarket and trip hazards on footpaths is a matter for Planning. He stated this is a separate Failte Ireland scheme to encourage outdoor dining in the City Centre.

3. Reports

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked if there were any plans for local authority houses in Dunmore East/Passage and Cheekpoint stating that there was a lack of social housing in these areas. He asked if the speed limit on the Coxtown and Graiguearidda road be looked at as cars are using it to avoid the traffic congestion in the village.

Cllr. Griffin asked if we could talk to the lifeguards and put up warning signs on all beaches advising of rip tides caused after the winter storms. He looked for update on the pedestrian crossing in Barrack Street and the new one-way traffic scheme for the inner city. He asked if the overgrown shrubbery could be cut back at the Gaelscoil in Gracedieu and could Chapel Lane be resurfaced. He asked if there could be a meeting arranged with Housing and the combined resident's association in Carrickphierish to discuss the overall planning in the area.

Cllr. E. Quinlan asked if the derelict house on the Lower Yellow Road could be secured as it is being used for ASB he also asked if the Council could CPO it. He stated that the hedgerow on Quarry Road needs to be cut back and the new pedestrian crossing needs to be lined. He asked that the new footpath in Tramore near the soccer club be painted with signs as it has no cycle lane and is very confusing for cyclists and if council tenants painted their houses and did improvement works could the cost be deducted from their rents.

I. Grimes, DoS stated he is carrying out a review of land banks in the area and will have more information for next meeting. He said following the lifting of restrictions they will have active engagement with the residents associations in Carrickphierish. He will look at the derelict house on the Lower Yellow Road and will consider CPO. He stated it is the tenant's responsibility to maintain their property and it would be very hard to introduce a system of discounted rent but he will bring to the Housing SPC.

F. Galvin, DoS said that a review of the Special Speed Limit Bye-laws is due to commence later this year and submissions for proposed changes could be made at that time. Signage relating to rip currents will be put in place at a number of beaches. The proposed one-way traffic system at Hennessy's Road went out for public consultation and he will bring back to the June meeting for further consideration. He will arrange for inspections and action relating to the overgrowth at the Gaelscoil and Quarry Road, Chapel Lane is included in the proposed footpath programme and the lining at the pedestrian crossing on Quarry Road is due to be completed shortly. He stated the footpath in Tramore is a shared surface, is not completed and appropriate signage indicating use will be erected.

B. Stoic, SEE stated the tender process has commenced for the pedestrian crossing at Barrack Street.

Cllr. Roche stated that the case for an outer ring road between the Airport Road and Passage Cross needs to be pursued. She advised that a young girl not from Waterford was sleeping rough in the City and asked what is the situation for people entering emergency accommodation who are not from Waterford do we have an emergency plan. She asked could we introduce a 'love 30' campaign in Dunmore East to slow down the traffic and could there be light limitation on the new LED lights on the High Road during the nights. She asked that Ballymaclode/Halfway House be included in the speed limit review and could the rubbish bins in the People's Park be emptied earlier than 10:30am.

Cllr. Mulligan looked for updates on the lighting up of the T F Meagher Bridge, the toilets in Woodstown, the outdoor gym equipment in Farronshoneen Park, the Metropolitan Transport Strategy, the Carlisle Bridge, City Centre Bicycle Scheme and the cleaning of the Millennium Plaza. He said these are all ongoing issues and he needs clarification.

Cllr. Barry welcomed the plans to make Waterford carbon neutral by 2040 and asked for detailed plans to be circulated. He welcomed the announcement of the new rail linking Westport with Port of Waterford and asked if a representative from the Port could address the Councillors with their 2040 Master Plan.

I. Grimes, DoS stated that all Local Authorities have the same rules regarding people presenting as homeless from outside their areas and it is a National Policy.

F. Galvin, DoS said the Passage Cross to Airport route could be expressed through the Development Plan process. The new LED lights at Dunmore East are currently being reviewed by our Energy Officer. He will note speeding in Ballymaclode in the context of the forthcoming speed limit review. The bins in park are emptied between 8 am and 10 am daily. He has no update on the TF Meagher bridge lighting and will follow up, he is working on a resolution on the opening of the public toilets in Woodstown, the replacement adult outdoor gym equipment for Farronshoneen Park is on order and will be installed when delivered, a consultant has been appointed to repair and paint the Carlisle bridge, the City Bike Rental Scheme is due later this year and work on the Plaza is scheduled for June. With respect to the Decarbonising Zone project for the City, it is intended to brief the Council in more detail in the coming months.

Cllr. Murphy asked if more outdoor gym equipment could be provided in the People's Park due to the amount of people using the park. He asked for an update on the Estate Management staffing and the role of the out-sourced ASB person. He asked if there could be a timescale for new housing applicants so they could manage their expectations.

Cllr. Power asked for update on waste water treatment sewage at Passage East, suggested the development of a pocket park in Poleberry at the back of Tesco, could the Council look at purchasing Bookey Woods so that the Japanese Gardens could expand, he stated there are flooding issues in Cheekpoint and said that there are no amenities for the new council houses in Williamstown Glen and could the small park there be re-instated. He thanked the Council for the new footpaths and road surface on entrance into Cheekpoint and asked how many of the chimney fires were caused by open fires burning coal.

Cllr. F. Quinlan asked if there was an anomaly between a single mother having 2 children of the same gender as opposed to having 2 children with different genders waiting time on the Housing list. He suggested putting a selfie photo frame on the Greenway which would be a great way to showcase the Greenway. He also said residents from Fairfield Park and Kill St. Lawrence had approached him with concerns of a proposed connecting pathway between the 2 separate estates.

N. Curtin, CFO stated all chimney fires on the emergency service reports were associated with the use of fossil and other solid fuels. There is no data available as to what type of fuel was in use in the other domestic fire incidents.

F. Galvin, DoS said he will look at the possibility of extra gym equipment in the People's Park, was not aware of land for sale beside the Japanese Gardens and will engage with the Trust, the waste water treatment at Passage East is a matter for Irish Water, will check out possibility of pocket park in Poleberry and will talk to the Trails Officer about a selfie booth on the Greenway.

L. McGree, SP said he will check out connecting footpath between Williamstown Glen and Kill St. Lawrence but stated that it is normally part of the conditions of planning permission to encourage connectivity between estates.

I. Grimes, DoS stated he hopes to fill the vacant positions in the tenancy management as soon as possible as there has been a lot of internal staff transfers. He will talk to his Housing Allocations team to see how they can moderate the expectations of new applicants. He said the eligibility of families depending on the gender of the children is in the National Regulations.

Cllr. Brennan looked for update on the locations of plastic bottles recycle/refund machines and when they will be installed, TIC in The Village, Ballygunner, when will TFI report back to council on their audit and asked for road markings to be repainted in St. Herblain Park.

Cllr. Ryan proposed putting lights in a section of the People's Park, he asked if there was sufficient land bank for housing and looked for map, he said there is a major issue with dog fouling and could we do more advertising as to the penalties. He looked for start date for the Bike Rental Scheme, asked for information on Carbon Neutral for the City and asked if an invitation could be extended to the IDA to present to Council to discuss job opportunities for Waterford.

Cllr. Gallagher asked if officials from the Council would meet with the BOM of De La Salle to discuss the plan to erect barriers to solve the traffic management in the area. She asked if the EPA had consulted with the Council regarding the death of shellfish in the river Suir and could the outdoor section consult with residents groups before cutting the grass in Communities as some areas are being left grow for biodiversity. She supported Cllr. Ryan's request to have lighting in some sections of the People's Park but asked to make sure that the areas would not affect the bats living in the park.

F. Galvin, DoS said they are installing plastic bottle cages in a number of areas and the proposed national deposit and return scheme for bottles and cans is only at the consultation process just yet. The NTA will start their consultation process for Bus Connects Programme in Waterford later this year. He will ask his engineer to look at the road markings in St. Herblain, the public lighting in the People's Park is a budgetary issue, there will be extensive campaigns for dog fouling during the summer months with dog wardens patrolling busy areas and stencils are being painted and warning signs being erected. The Bike rental Scheme is due to commence later this year. He noted that the details of the Decarbonising Zone proposals will be brought to Council in the coming months. He would be happy to meet with the BOM of De La Salle to discuss the traffic management plan, the alleged issue of dead shellfish is a matter for the EPA and asked for more details of the grass cutting stating it must have been a miscommunication.

L. McGree, SP said he has a meeting with the NTA on the 18/5/21 to discuss the Transport Strategy and plans for it to go for public consultation in the 3rd quarter of 2021. He stated there is sufficient land for both social and private housing and he will ask D. Ó Murchadha to come to the June meeting with TIC details.

Cllr. Hearne asked could the Council write to the Government to ask if the money they pay to the Vulture Funds could be invested in building social houses. He asked will the ASB officer be replaced, he stated that more than 1 hour is needed for the ASB Workshop, he asked if there was a Garda plan in place for the 2 houses in the Crescent which are causing ASB issues and could the fields around Ballybeg be cleaned up.

Cllr. Conway looked for update on lighting in Tramore on the Doneraile, Pebble Beach, Ring Road and Fenor Road and asked what the plans were there to address the outages. He asked for renewed signage in the sand dunes as more people are using them and causing damage and he suggested either the Environmental or Heritage Officer goes to the local schools to talk to them about the importance of the sand dunes. He asked Planning to address the illegal casual trading in Tramore and are the works at the Orchardstown junction completed. He asked for an engineer to look at the culverts on the R682 stating that there is a lot of pooling and surface water on the road causing a safety hazard.

Cllr. O'Sullivan asked that the new bridge be installed in Newtown Woods as a matter of urgency before the busy summer season. She asked could adult gym equipment be installed in Tramore. She looked for update on the footpath and lights in Newtown Glen, asked that the illegal trading on private lands in Tramore be dealt with and enquired about additional staff for Planning in light of the doubling of planning applications.

Cllr. Wyse said with the amount of people socialising in our parks and outdoors there is a need for more public toilets and he asked if there could be portable toilets erected in our parks, he also asked if a new footpath could be built on the Williamstown Road between Bishops court and Kilmarragh.

Cllr. Kelly looked for update on the opening of the toilets and the lighting at the Pier in Tramore. He asked for the Council to talk to the BOM re the erection of barriers at De La School as part of the Traffic Management Scheme and could the council house on Quarry Road that was recently refurbished be allocated as it was starting to attract ASB.

I. Grimes, DoS said that there will be more time allocated for the ASB Workshop but added that the JPC hold 4 meetings per year and is a forum for engagement. He said an external contractor was recruited some time ago to deal with complicated ASB's and the house in Quarry Road will be put up for allocation in the near future but he will make sure the property is secure.

F. Galvin, DoS said quotations had been received for the replacement lighting on the Doneraile and are being considered, he is waiting on the ESB to connect lights in Ballycarnane, he has appointed

consultants to look design a new footpath, drainage, lighting etc at Newtown Glen and will bring proposals to Council in due course. He will talk to the Conservation Officer regarding the sand dunes and see what is appropriate. He will refer the drainage issues in the R682 to the Area Engineer and will look at providing adult gym equipment in Tramore. He noted Cllr. Wyse's comments relating to public toilets and stated that it was intended to open up public Libraries and Museums for this use in line with national policy. He will have a look at the footpath on the Williamstown Road and will communicate with the De LaSalle school.

L. McGree, SP stated he can't comment on enforcement matters but can talk to the Councillor directly.

4. Planning:

Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended Planning & Development Regulations 2001 as amended Part V111: Commencement of Process

a). 14 No. Social Housing Scheme dwellings at Fountain Street, Ferrybank

A. Lennon, EE gave an overview of the scheme stating Part 8 process will commence. Councillors were happy with the scheme but raised issue with the number of parking spaces provided.

b). 5 No. Group Houses under the TAP Scheme at Green Road, Waterford

I. Grimes, DoS advised that there were no changes to the scheme when last presented to Council in September and Part 8 process will commence.

5. 2021 Footpath Programme- Report presented at meeting

A. Kirwan and J. Gallagher area Executive Engineers presented a list of priority footpaths which are listing for funding as part of the Capital Funding in the Metropolitan District. Councillors had issues with not having access to lists prior to meeting. It was agreed to circulate lists and bring back to the June meeting for further discussion.

6. Correspondence

None

It was agreed to extend Standing Orders for 15 minutes, proposed by Cllr. Daniels, seconded by Cllr. O'Sullivan and agreed by all.

7. Motions

Motion in the name of Cllr. Joe Conway

“This Council records it's deep appreciation of the caring and professional work done by the nurses, doctors and all frontline workers in UHW during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic”.

Reg. No. 56 (dated 7th May, 2021)

In proposing the motion Cllr. Conway stated that it was important as a Council to mark the work the doctors/nurses/frontline workers did to provide care during the pandemic despite the health risks they

faced. They deserve tangible compensation for their hard work and asked the Government to approve an extra 10 days leave as a one off to say thanks for all their support and solidarity.

Cllr. Daniels seconded the motion stating that all frontline staff were to be commended for their dedication and excellent care at such a difficult time.

Cllrs. Power, Hearne, Ryan, Roche, Barry & Brennan spoke and added their support to the motion:

The motion was agreed unanimously.

8. AOB

The Mayor stated this was Cllr. Brennan's last meeting and wished her well and every success for the future and hoped she would remain active in her community.

Cllr. Griffin said it was a pleasure working with Cllr. Brennan and stated she was easy to work with and wished her the best.

Cllr. Hearne said it was a pleasure working with Cllr. Brennan for the past 7 years and wished her the best of luck.

Cllr. Ryan wished Cllr. Brennan all the best stating she was an excellent councillor for her area of Kilcohan/Ballytruckle and she will be missed.

Cllr. Kelly stated Cllr. Brennan was decent and honest and worked fairly and honest and to the best of her ability. He wished her the best of luck.

Cllr. Fitzgerald stated Cllr. Brennan was a great support to him personally and will miss her, she was an excellent person and wished her the best of luck.

Cllr. Conway said Cllr. Brennan made a difference and wished her well.

Cllr. Murphy wished Cllr. Brennan well on behalf of Fianna Fail and stated he enjoyed working with her and she was a great representative for her area.

F. Galvin, DoS echoed the sentiments of all the speakers and wished Cllr. Brennan all the best for the future.

Cllr. Brennan thanked everyone for their good wishes. She especially wanted to thank her family for all their support throughout the past 7 years and stated she is looking forward to spending time with them.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____