

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

**Meeting of the Metropolitan District held by MS Teams on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022 @ 5.00pm**

**Present:**

Cllr. Seamus Ryan, <b>Mayor</b>	Cllr. Cristiona. Kiely
Cllr. Joanne Bailey	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. Donal Barry	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Lola O’Sullivan
Cllr. Davy Daniels	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Eamonn Quinlan
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. Joe Kelly	Cllr. Adam Wyse

**Officials in attendance:**

Mr. M. Quinn, Director of Services  
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator  
Mr. R. Moloney, SEO, Environment  
Mr. C. O’Neill, SEE, Roads  
Ms. H. O’Shea Senior Planner  
Ms. O. O’Reilly, AO Housing  
Mr. A. O’Shea, EE Roads  
Ms. N. Keating, SEE, Roads  
Ms. A. O’Shea, Corporate Department

Meetings Administrator carried out the roll call for attendance.

**Vote of Sympathies/Congratulations:**

Votes of sympathy were expressed to the families of the late Freddie Kervick, and Tess Kennedy

Vote of congratulations were expressed to:

- DLS College who were beaten finalists in the U19 and U16 semi-finalists in the All-Ireland school’s soccer which was a huge achievement.
- Kelyn Cassidy who represented Ireland in the elite Golden Belt boxing competition and won a bronze medal.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were proposed by Cllr. Daniels seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all.

**2. Matters Arising,**

Cllr. Kelly asked if there was any update on the opening of the men’s toilets at the Pier in Tramore and also the fountain at the People’s Park.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked if there was any update on flooding in Passage East and had contact been made with Irish Water.

Cllr. Griffin asked for update on the opening of both the men's and women's toilets at Ballinaneashagh.

M. Quinn, DoS advised members that he had now taken over as Metropolitan Manager.

R. Moloney, SEO stated that a detailed specification for the fountain in the People's Park is at an advanced stage and should be advertised for tenders next week. He said that both toilets were now opened in Ballinaneashagh cemetery, the men's toilets at the Pier will be re-opened when repairs are completed and flooding in Cheekpoint is being dealt with by Irish Water.

### **3. Reports**

Cllr. Barry raised concerns regarding the time scale for adaption grants for Council houses stating a case where someone seriously ill could be waiting up to 22 months, he asked for details of the number of grants being processed and the timescale for works to be done. He stated that Lombard Street and John's Street need a face lift especially with the number of visitors coming into the city during the summer months and looked for update of the servicing of gas boilers in Council houses.

Cllr. O'Sullivan asked if the equipment removed from the skate park in Tramore could be replaced. She said that the road signage on Gallwey's Hill needs to be clearer and the ongoing road works outside O'Shea's hotel is seriously damaging their business. She asked if a meeting could be set up with the Manager regarding the summer parking permits in Tramore stating that the permits have been in place for a number of years and cannot see why the Auditor would have a problem with them. She looked for a meeting to update local Councillors on the Ukrainian Refugees.

Cllr. F. Quinlan asked if Active Travel could look at a one-way system in the Mount Sion/Doyle Street area. He noted that due to the Biodiversity programme the greens in housing estates are not cut but asked if the green in Avondale could be cut to allow the children play there safely. He asked if dogs could be allowed in the RSC for the Park Runs to allow runners take their dogs on the runs.

O. O'Reilly, AO said there has been a large volume of adaptation grants received this year and it's very hard to give an average turnaround due to the different types of applications, but she will revert with numbers. She said that the servicing of gas boilers for council properties has re-commenced following Covid and asked that tenants log it with Customer Services.

R. Moloney, SEO stated he will look at the presentation of Lombard Street & John Street and see how it can be upgraded. He said it is planned to replace some of the equipment in the skate park in Tramore, but they may have to move it to an alternative location. He stated the grass cutting has commenced but some areas may not be suitable for cutting due to the ground conditions.

M. Quinn, DoS said that works were progressing on the Public Realm in Tramore, and works should be completed by end of April, he will organise a meeting of the local area councillors to discuss outstanding issues. He said that an engineer has been in contact with O'Shea's hotel to discuss the works and he stated that there has been significant activity dealing with the emergency response to the refugees.

N. Keating, SEE said that there are no proposals for the summer parking permits in Tramore as they are not in the Bye Laws and were impossible to administer due to the high demand. She stated that the cost of parking per day is €2 which is not unreasonable.

Cllr. Fitzgerald stated there is not sufficient litter bins in Dunmore East in comparison to Tramore and asked why this is so. He asked for ramps to be installed at Killea school and looked for update on the surveys carried out on the footpath at Cuckaloo and speed survey at Gregaridda and also asked when the speed limit review would take place. He asked if the coastal repairs in Passage on the monthly report was for the cliff face.

Cllr. Griffin asked if there was funding available for Piers & Harbours and if a feasibility study could take place for a theatre in Tramore. He asked if Tramore Councillors could have a walk through the Public Realm works especially at end of Gallwey's Hill stating that works need to be completed there. He stated that older people cannot afford €2 per day for parking in Tramore and also that there are not enough disabled parking spaces on the Prom. He proposed putting Summer Parking Permits back on the agenda.

Cllr. Kelly also supported a feasibility study for a theatre in Tramore and suggested that the old Railway building may be a suitable venue. He asked if the folio for the private car park at the end of the Prom could be checked. He is looking for a new bus stop on Cleaboy Road and asked if funding could be sought through Active Travel and asked if the pedestrian lights on Keane's Road could be checked as they are turning red. He looked for update on the Active Travel Scheme passed by the Council for Ballycarnane Woods stating that residents did not see the notice in the press and were excluded from the process and had caused uproar.

C. O'Neill, SEE stated that there is a presentation team in Tramore that looks after the bins but it's the roads crew that look after the bins in Dunmore East and he will look at perhaps increasing the number of bins. He will do a speed survey on the Killea Road near the school but said that there are proposed traffic calming measures planned further down the road due to increased housing developments.

N. Keating, SEE said the results of the speed survey at Gregaridda showed that 85% of cars were under the speed limit but it can be considered under the Speed Limit review which should take place before end of the year. She will check out the pedestrian lights on Keane's Road and talk to the Active Travel team about the bus shelter on the Cleaboy Road and the one-way system on Doyle Street. She suggested bringing the Summer Parking Permits for Tramore to the Roads SPC.

M. Quinn, DoS said there is a need for a feasibility study for a theatre in Tramore as the desire is there and will refer it to the Cultural team, he will look at the Train Station amongst other locations. He will speak to the Roads team about the Summer Parking Permits and decided whether to bring to the SPC or hold a meeting to discuss, this was welcomed by Cllrs. Griffin & O'Sullivan. He will talk to the Active Travel Team as to how to better inform the public re. projects and will ask Property Management to check out the folio on the private car park at end of the Prom.

Cllr. Bailey looked for more information on the Taste Waterford website launched recently. She looked for breakdown on the type of houses in our Housing Capital projects and asked if the same criteria for allocating houses was applied for approved housing projects. She asked if there were plans for more outdoor seating in the City and said stated there is a need for a bus service to UHW from the Larchville/Lisduggan area.

Cllr. Mulligan referred to the Historical Structure Funds and allocation of €50K to the Spider Light and asked was there a costing done on the full restoration of the building, also T&H Doolin's received a grant for €37K for significant restoration and he asked was this applied for privately or through the Council and who would be responsible for overseeing the works. He asked had there been any expressions of interest for the student village in Michael Street and how many applications have been received to date for the Affordable Housing Scheme. He said there are a lot of traffic issues in the City Centre and there has not been any public consultation since 2014 and it needs to be addressed and he also looked for an update on the status of the Metropolitan Area Street Transport study.

Cllr. Kiely asked that submissions raised on the Active Travel Scheme at Knockenduff could be considered and also agreed that a feasibility study for a theatre in Tramore should be approved. She asked if there were any lands available for community gardens and could bicycle bunkers be trialled in Tramore. She welcomed the refurbishment of No. 9 Main Street and asked has a tenant been confirmed and what number of housing units were being provided. She looked for extra disabled and age friendly parking spaces on the Prom and also supported the request for summer parking permits. She asked if a resident could sit on the Tramore Town Centre Management Group. She asked if there was any shared accommodation for people with intellectual disabilities included in the 97 approved Housing Body units and looked for a timeline for the sustainable bridge and transport hub and asked for less mowing of our green spaces for biodiversity.

M. Quinn, DoS said that the Taste Waterford website is run by a local group, and he will circulate the contact details to members. He said that there are no plans for picnic tables and the Council had just completed the installation of umbrellas working with local businesses. He will circulate details regarding expression of interest when received and stated that Community Groups need to apply for and run allotments. There are 2 residential units in property at No. 9 Main Street and stated Councillor's represent residents on the Tramore Town Centre Group, but he needs to look at the current membership. The Transportation Bridge is at the tender stage and works are due to commence in Q1 2023. He will wait to see how the trial on the bicycle bunkers works in the City and can then roll out to other areas and the Metropolitan Traffic Management study is near completion and will go on public display shortly and a Workshop will need to be held. He will submit request for bus from Larchville/Lisduggan to UHW to the NTA as they are responsible for all bus licences.

H. O'Shea, SEP referred to the Historical Structures fund stating that T & H Doolins were allocated €37K for repairs to the shopfront which was a % of the total cost of the works, they also received monies in 2021 for roof repairs which they have undertaken. She will revert with overall costings for full restoration to Spider Light in Passage East.

O. O'Reilly, AO will circulate a list of the house types included in the 380 units listed in Capital Projects. She confirmed that the same criteria are used for AHB allocations as Council and properties are advertised on CBL. She will circulate details of the number of applications to date for the Affordable Housing Scheme and confirmed there are no assisted living units in the 97 AHB properties.

R. Moloney, SEO said there is a balance in grass cutting between presentation and biodiversity, but he will endeavour to promote biodiversity as much as possible.

N. Keating, SEE said she will look at putting a set down area in High Street on a short-term basis and stated the Traffic Management proposal is nearly ready and will require a workshop. She is looking at increasing the number of disabled parking spaces on the prom and also adding age friendly spaces.

C. O'Neill, SEE said they had made an application to the Department of Agriculture for the Piers & Harbours fund for repairs to Tramore, Checkpoint and Passage East but have heard nothing back. As soon as response is received, he will put in the monthly report.

Cllr. Murphy looked for update on the Bike Rental Scheme stating that it was due to commence in early April. He also asked had due diligence been carried out on the operators. He asked if Ballybricken Green could be looked at to create a market selling artisan foods on Sundays stating it was an ideal location and would help to reanimate the space.

Cllr. Conway looked for update on Tramore Allotment planning application. He agrees on striking a balance between presentation and biodiversity but asked the rationale in cutting the inside of the grass verges and leaving the outside grow and also asked why the furs were removed from the Nature Park in Tramore. He said the buildings in Lombard Street Nos. 6-8 and the Station House in Tramore should be painted as they are in a dilapidated state. He asked if the presentation staffing levels in Tramore could be looked at and agreed with fellow Councillors for the need for Summer Parking permits. He asked for the removal of the Viking Marathon sign from the Silver and Viking Museum sign and if the Sea Horse monument on the Doneraile could be upgraded for a cost of €10K under the Historical Funds Scheme.

Cllr. Daniels, asked for housing estates which are not being taken in charge by the Council as to what options residents have, he also said the Council should be obliged to take estates in charge, he referred to the Paddocks. He looked for update on works due to be carried out on Carbally Road and for a footpath to be provided through Active Travel at the city side of Faithlegg. He said the residents at Ballycarnane were not happy with the process of the advertisement consultation for the pedestrian crossing at Knockenduff, he also looked for an update for works outside O'Shea's Hotel.

H. O'Shea, SEP advised that the Tramore Allotment did submit a planning application and decision is due on the 25<sup>th</sup> May.

R. Moloney, SEO will take comments regarding grass cutting on verges back to the horticulturist and stated that there is a need to manage the furs due to fire hazard. He is actively looking at staffing levels in the Presentation team in Tramore with the approach of the tourist season.

M. Quinn, DoS stated the contract for the Bike Scheme is awarded by the NTA. He said that significant funding is needed to set up a market, but they are continuing to look at options. He will speak to Property Management about improving the appearance of properties on Lombard Street and the Station House in Tramore. He will refer the request for upgrade of the Sea Horse monument under the Historic Funds to the appropriate officer and will speak to K. Kehoe about the Taking in Charge of the Paddocks and he confirmed that residents can make a request to have their estate taken in charge.

C. O'Neill, SEE said he will speak to the area engineer regarding works at Corbally and he has referred the request for a footpath at Faithlegg to the Active Travel Team.

Cllr. Power looked for more details on the coastal repairs to Cheekpoint and Passage East. He asked if the parking spaces outside Faithlegg church could be perpendicular to allow more space for parking. He referred to the unkept state of the approach road to the City from the north and asked that the Council write to Kilkenny County Council.

Cllr. Quinlan stated the lifebuoys at Saleens need to be replaced and asked could planters be put in Tramore Town Centre to make the area greener. He referred to the condition of the road outside O'Shea's hotel and said that the businesses in the area should be offered a rates rebate. He asked if the taxi rank which was outside Boots on Main Street could be moved around the corner by the Grand Hotel and if approved could it come back to Council for the May meeting. He received reps from residents in Ferrybank suggesting that the disused Shopping Centre could be used to house Ukrainian Refugees.

Cllr. Hearne looked for update to the twinning with Ramallah. He asked if a bird hide could be built near Saleens for school children and older people to bird watch. He commended the Council for the tree planting in Ballybeg and asked if there could be a tree planting programme each year to keep up the stock of trees and he asked for a large pothole outside the Craftsman's pub in Lismore Park to be fixed.

Cllr. Roche looked for an update on all works planned for the People's Park. She asked if the Chamber of Commerce could be invited to present to the Metropolitan Council regarding City Centre issues. She stated that the lights are not working at the new pedestrian crossings in Dunmore East and asked for an update. She said the Council needs to work with the businesses in the Applemarket to make the fanzone work. She welcomed M. Quinn to the meeting and asked if he could give a remit of his role for Councillor's information.

C. O'Neill SEE said he will revert with details of works at Passage East and Cheekpoint and he will look at the car parking spaces outside Faithlegg church. He will replace the lifebuoy at Saleens and fix the pothole in Lismore Park.

M. Quinn, DoS will get in contact with the Director in Kilkenny County Council regarding the appearance of the approach road to the city. He said there are plans in place for planters in Tramore Town Centre and he will look at the relocation of the taxi rank but stated this would need to go out for public consultation. He said there is no provision for rates rebates for businesses affected by works and stated that Ferrybank Shopping Centre is on a list of possible locations to support the Ukrainian refugees. He said that the Chamber sit on a lot of working groups and are close partners of the Council and he will invite the President/CE to come to either a workshop or meeting whichever the Mayor so wishes. He stated that businesses' need to come together to make the fanzone work in the Applemarket. He will come back to the Council with details of his remit in due course.

H. Dunphy, MA stated there is a process that needs to be fulfilled regarding twinning and documents have been sent to Ramallah to be completed and once received back it will then come to a meeting for approval.

R. Moloney, SEO said he will look at funding sources to put a bird hide at Saleens and stated that there is a tree planting programme prepared each year and he will circulate to all members and will come back to members on report for the People's Park.

N. Keating, SEE said she will follow up on the pedestrian lights for Dunmore East.

#### 4. Correspondence

None

#### 5. Motions

None

#### 6. AOB

Cllr. Conway referred to the racing of sulkies at high speed on the beach in Tramore stating that it was extremely dangerous and needs to be policed. He stated it is a breach of the Bye Laws which need to be enforced.

Cllr. Daniels stated Waterford had the lowest tree planting in Ireland and asked if the Council could increase the planting of trees.

Cllr. Quinlan asked if the Council could consider a 5K race 'Streets of Waterford' to showcase the city.

Cllr. Barry asked if the minutes of the City Centre Management Group could be circulated.

Cllr. Griffin said there will be a meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> April to form an action group for Saleens and surrounding areas.

Cllr. Fitzgerald referred to the large wind farm planned off the Waterford coast and looked for updated details of the plans.

Cllr. Mulligan said he will circulate minutes of the City Centre Mgt. Group and he also asked when Council meetings will be back to in person.

H. Dunphy, MA said that decision on meetings will be decided at the next CPG meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_