

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting of the Metropolitan District held by MS Teams on 21st February, 2022 @ 5.00pm

Present:

Cllr. Seamus Ryan, Mayor	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

Apologies:

Officials in attendance:

Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Services
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
Mr. L. McGree, Senior Planner
Ms. C. Hartley, SEO Housing
Mr. C. O’Neill, SEE Roads
Ms. N. Keating, SEE, Roads
Ms. L. Grant, SSO Economic Development
Mr. D. Ó Murchadha, SEE Planning
Mr. J. Murray, A/SE, Active Travel
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 Christine McSweeney, Eddie O’Neill, Michael Cardiff, Kathleen Waring, David Kent, Tom Rogers, May Hourigan and John Sinnott.

A vote of congratulations was expressed to the Ballygunner team on winning the All-Ireland club hurling final, stating it was a great occasion for Waterford and that the club should be honoured with reception in City Hall.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 24th January, 2022 were proposed by Cllr. Daniels seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald and agreed by all.

2. Matters Arising,

Cllr. Kelly asked for correction in the minutes to clarify that he had spoken to the family of Henry Moloney Snr not directly with Henry Snr in relation to the St. Patrick's Day parade.

3. Reports

Cllr. Conway referred to Tivoli Terrace and asked if there could be speed restrictions put in place on the road and damage to surfaces be repaired as it is a busy section of road at main entrance to Tramore. He also asked if the owners of the former Long Haul premises at Ballyduff on the N25 could be approached to clean up their property as it was on one of the main entrances to the City and was an eyesore.

Cllr. Murphy looked for update on the lighting in the People's Park and also noted that a large tree had fallen due to storm Eunice and he asked if the tree would be replaced with a similar tree in the same location. He asked if the park at Railway Square could be made more presentable stating it was on the main entrance into the City and looked for update on entrance to the Nature Park at the North side,

Cllr. Barry asked if the Council could collaborate with Fáilte Ireland in moving the Tourist Office to O'Connell Street/Hanover Street stating that it would draw tourists to the Cultural Quarter and invigorate the area. He also looked for assurances that if the office was moved to the Museum, that the walking tours could start outside the museum. He asked if the toilet block by the amusements in Tramore could be reopened as the disabled toilets are being used by everyone which may be a health risk to vulnerable users due to Covid and he also asked that the disabled parking bays there be revamped.

F. Galvin, DoS said that a speed survey had been done at Tivoli Terrace and they were looking at a long-term solution to the traffic calming. Work on lighting in the People's Park is progressing and they are working with Planning as an Environmental Impact Assessment will be required before detailed planning of the works can commence. The fallen tree will be replaced in the People's Park and a health check of the other mature trees in the Park is planned. Railway Square park is on the current works programme and will be planted within the next couple of months. The Council is currently exploring a number of funding options to create a new access to the Nature Park from the North side. There is no budget to open the toilet block at Strand Street for the winter months and he will look at refreshing the disabled parking bays there along with plans for a set down for ambulance.

L. Grant, SSO stated that Fáilte Ireland are reviewing the location of the tourist office and she is not aware of their plans she noted that Jack Burchell provides a popular visitor attraction and was working outside the tourist office on the Quay but if office moves to the Museum it may cause confusion as the Museum have their own walking tour.

L. McGree, SP stated there is an enforcement file open for the Long Haul which Planning are pursuing.

Cllr. Griffin, asked for the Council to engage with the Pier committee regarding the maintenance of the toilets at the Pier. He asked if the Tramore Council reps could have a walk through the town centre with engineers to discuss some small problems that have not been fixed following the Public Realm Works and also to discuss the planned Festival for the area. He stated that Waterford Council as a Landlord is not coming across well in the media regarding the apartments in Mount Suir and asked what can be done to fix the mould, faulty windows and other problems in the apartments.

Cllr. Kiely supports Cllr. Griffin's request for a walk through in Tramore Town Centre. She asked what can the Council do about parking on footpaths which is forcing vulnerable road users on to the road. She asked why can't the Council do the work on the School Streets stating it is a safety issue at Glor na Mara. She referred to the use of glyphosate and asked what the plans are to discontinue using it and she referred to the new Public Consultation regarding 'Changing Places' which hopes to roll out toilet facilities for adults with disabilities and asked would there be public buildings in the City, Tramore and Dungarvan which could be adapted for this use.

Cllr. Daniels said following all the recent storms could the HSE be asked to do an audit of their trees in the grounds of UHW as the trees are very old and residents in the area are concerned for their safety. He asked what the plans for Geoff's Woods are following its purchase by the Council and he suggested a car park for walkers on the Riverwalk. He asked that skid resistance surfacing at Mount Pleasant be considered in the context of the current S.38 for the area. He asked if the zoning in an area in the current Development Plan changes can the owner make a planning application under the current zoning.

C. Hartley, SEO, said she noted Cllr. Griffin's concerns regarding mould but noted that it states clearly in the Tenant's Hand Book that issues around condensation is the tenant's responsibility. She stated there is a robust Housing Maintenance system in place with an average yearly spend of €1k per unit.

The Mayor said it is not just an issue of dampness as there are huge problems with repairs not done, raw sewage etc. and he asked if a Management Company could be appointed to deal with these issues.

C. Hartley, SEO confirmed that a Management Company is in place to deal with the outstanding issues and when the properties were allocated in 2019 they met with the Building Regulations.

F. Galvin, DoS said that an arrangement is already in place regarding the opening of the toilets on the Pier, he would be happy to host a walk through Tramore Town Centre once the contractor is finished works. Parking on footpaths is an issue county wide and while the traffic wardens patrol the streets within their remit, the Gardai may also enforce the law and ultimately stated motorists must park responsibly. He said that the use of glyphosate is being phased out within the next year or two and asked for more details on the hoist for adults with disabilities so he can check it out. He stated that they regularly assess trees that are at risk, communicate with property owners to cut back and he will write to the HSE. There are no plans currently for Goff's Wood and a Section 38 for works at Farronshoneen Roundabout will be coming back to Council for approval.

J. Murray A/SE stated they are waiting on authorisation from the Safe Routes to Schools Programme to progress the safe route to school for Glor na Mara.

Cllr. Kelly sought clarification as to the use of the parasols by the public. He asked for drawings of the plans for the fountain in the People's Park and asked had there been many complaints regarding the footpaths in the city saying they are very dangerous and slippery. He asked that the men's toilets in the Pier Tramore be opened this Summer and stated the offer of help from the Pier Association should be taken up and asked why the men's toilets in Ballinaneashagh cemetery are not being opened during funerals. He stated we should not accept the substandard work on the apartments in Mt. Suir stating that they are new properties costing €130k each and do not meet building standards which is not acceptable for brand new properties.

Cllr. F. Quinlan asked for update on the Footpath Programme for the City stating that the footpaths are in poor condition and need upgrading. He looked for signs to be erected at entrances to Greenway advising people to keep left and asked for Goff's track in the People's Park to be upgraded and lit. He asked that the decision to finish the Viking Marathon in Bilberry be reconsidered due to the road works and asked if it could be moved to the Mall encouraging people to spend money in the city.

Cllr. Bailey asked if a safety awareness campaign for all road users could be rolled out due to the increase use of e-scooters/bikes and the danger to pedestrians walking on the footpath. She asked what the waiting time for allocation of properties was following notification from the housing delivery team citing a 5 week wait by one prospective family. She asked that the green area by the old city walls in Carrigeen Park be cleaned up.

Cllr. Hearne endorsed Cllr. Bailey's safe cycle campaign and asked if the Council could not allow e-scooters on the Prom in Tramore and on the river walk on the Quays to allow elderly people walk safely and not be afraid. He asked if the footpath could be extended from the Industrial Estate out to the Butlerstown Roundabout to allow pedestrians to walk safely.

F. Galvin, DoS stated he will circulate plans for the fountain in the People's Park when available and asked that Cllr. Kelly sends details of the location of the footpaths that he felt were particularly slippery. He said

that arrangements are in place to open the public toilets at the Pier in Tramore as per last year and he will check with the supervisor to the reason why the men's toilets were not open in Ballinaneashagh cemetery. He will refer signage on the Greenway to the Trails Officer, Johnny Brunnock, and referred to his previous answer with respect to the proposed lighting in the Peoples Park. With respect to moving the finish line for the Viking Marathon to the city centre, he stated that this would require effectively closing access to the city centre for a full day and would cause very significant traffic management issues. He said that e-scooters are illegal, currently cannot be used on footpaths or roads and enforcement is a matter for the Gardai. He will look at getting the message out through our Road Safety officer during mobility week. The provision of a footpath by the Industrial Estate will be considered under the Active Travel scheme and he will follow up on CRM issue raised by Cllr. Bailey.

L. Grant, SSO said the parasol scheme was Fáilte Ireland funded to support business's, and this was managed under Section 254 Licence so the parasols are Council property but managed by the business's.

C. Hartley, SEO said a 5 week hand over of keys was unusual and will check it out. She wanted to clarify that 18 apartments were purchased in Block C in Mount Suir and were all in compliance but due to Covid units were vacant and were damaged and when they were tenanted in 2020 they met with the Housing Standards. She also clarified that the maintenance queries were routine and not of emergency nature.

C. O'Neill, SEE said that a programme of footpath works was passed last year for Capital Funds for 20 locations in the City and €445k was spent last year and works are on-going and he can share a list of works with Cllr. Quinlan. He stated that the moving of the finish of the Viking Marathon was a Traffic Management issue and the marathon has also been moved to Sunday to overcome these issues.

Cllr. Fitzgerald commended the Housing Department for the energy retrofit scheme in Shanakiel Estate in Dunmore saying that the residents are delighted, and it is evident that the air is much cleaner following the works. He asked when the works on the pedestrian crossing at Horsequarter would be completed and looked for update on the footpath in Crooke servicing the school. He asked if the small roundabout at Corbally Cross could be widened to allow the school bus to turn safely.

Cllr. Power asked if the toilets at the Guillamene could be opened all year round due to the increase in sea swimming. He looked for an extension of the footpath at Blenheim Cross and asked if the Council had engaged with the owners of the Dutch fishing boat at Cheekpoint. He looked for an update on lighting up the City Walls for St. Patrick's Day and suggested that the FAI/GAA engage with the Council to use WIT carpark and have park & ride facilities to the sports ground and avoid congestion and parking on footpaths outside the grounds. He asked for a dead tree to be removed at the top of Grange Heights.

Cllr. O'Sullivan looked for update on the Fáilte Ireland Water sports facility for Tramore. She asked if the one-way system would be back in place on completion of the pipe laying on Newtown Road and when Gallwey's Hill would be opened to traffic. She looked for details of the letting of social houses being built at the GAA Roundabout and asked that Betty's Hill be resurfaced as it is in poor condition. She asked how HGV's can be stopped from using the Upper Yellow Road and noted the danger of e-scooters on that road. She noted that there is a strong community group looking after the opening/closing of the toilets at the Guillamene and Pier and it's working well.

C. Hartley, SEO, said she will pass on Cllr. Fitzgerald's congratulations to the delivery team and thanked him for his comments. She said the Housing Scheme at the GAA roundabout is waiting to be approved and should be tenanted by Q3.

F. Galvin, DoS, again stated that the arrangement with the Newtown/Guillamene swimming to maintain the toilets is operating well. He will look at extending the footpath at Passage Cross under the Active Travel and has served notice on the owner of the boat at Cheekpoint. He stated that the park & ride is a matter for the sporting organisations and is outside the scope of the Council. He will ask the open spaces engineer to check out the tree at the top of Grange Heights and have it removed if necessary. He said the grant application for the Water Sport Activity is progressing well with Fáilte Ireland and the design will come to the Council as a Part 8. He said the traffic would revert back to one-way system following completion of

the pipe laying on Newtown Road this week and HGV's are banned from using the Lower Yellow Road under the 5 axle ban and it is a matter for the Gardai to enforce.

C. O'Neill, SEE said it is hoped to complete the works at Horsequarter in the next week but will have to wait for lights to be switched on by ESB. He looked at Corbally Cross and will move the sign to allow the bus to pass safely as a temporary solution but will list under the Low Cost Road Safety Scheme for next year for a permanent solution.

J. Murray, A/SE said a survey has been completed on the footpath at Crooke and will progress under the Active Travel Scheme in 2022.

Cllr. Mulligan noted an increase of 26% in planning refusals and asked what can be done to facilitate the reduction of this. He asked if the historic bridge on the John's river could be lit up and cleaned and looked for an update on the Carlisle bridge. He asked for an update on the parasols stating that they were due to be installed in November. He referred to the funding announced for the Creaden Head Project and asked if Joy Rooney from WIT & Eamon McEaney who are involved in this could give an overview of the project to the Councillors.

Cllr. E. Quinlan stated he will be recommending to the Chair of the Independent Audit Committee to review the development at Mount Suir. He noted that the Dominican Church at end of O'Connell Street is to be vacated and he said it would be an opportunity for our Community/Arts/Property Departments to engage with the Bishop and the Order stating as it would be an ideal location for a community base. He noted Minister Ryan's comments to open up the railway line between Wexford & Waterford and asked how much money has been spent on the Greenway to date and if the railway was to be reinstated how much money would be lost. He looked for breakdown of the legal costs of bringing the owner of the Grand Hotel to Court.

Cllr. Roche stated she was not satisfied with the workshop held to discuss the City Centre Management and asked for a follow up workshop. She looked for update on the gym equipment in the People's Park and asked what plans were in place for the Railway Square park stating that it is at a prime entrance into the City and needs attention. She also asked what plans were in place for the animation of large spaces in the City Centre for the Summer which are looking sterile at present in John Roberts Square, Viking Triangle, Plaza, Cathedral Square and the Applemarket.

L. Grant, SSO said that the Parasols are due to be installed by the end of February and were delayed because of the huge demand for them. She also said she will revert to Councillors with costs for Waterford/Wexford Greenway. She will ask Conor Nolan to share plans for Summer in the City and said that Rose Ryall was involved in the development of the Failte Ireland Urban Animation application and the lighting of the city walls is being considered as part of the Lighting Consultant's brief which will add to the further animation of the city centre

F. Galvin, DoS said progress is being made on Carlisle Bridge but more invasive investigative works need to be done and it is planned to light up the arch on the second bridge. He will talk to Eamonn McEaney and Joy Rooney to discuss presenting details of Creaden project to the Metropolitan Councillors. He will be replacing the gym equipment in the People's Park and will be planting in the Railway Square park in the coming months. He will speak to the Cultural department regarding the possibility of setting up a community centre in the Dominican Church and suggested Councillors raise issues regarding City Centre Management at the upcoming workshop with the Chief Executive.

D. Ó Murchadha, SEE stated that the Grand Hotel enforcement is still a matter for the court and it is the gift of the Court to decide who will get costs. He is still in contact with the owner and will share the schedule of works with the Councillors.

It was proposed by Cllr. Roche and seconded by Cllr. Kelly to extend Standing Orders to deal with remaining items on the agenda.

4. Section 48 – Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011 – Renaming of area in front of Menapia Building – “Plás Charles Bacik”/“Charles Bacik Plaza” – for Approval

F. Galvin, DoS stated that this proposal was agreed at the Metropolitan District Council meeting on 20th September, 2021 in honour of Charles Bacik who was the co-founder of the modern Waterford Glass and later the Waterford Crystal company and in accordance with Section 48 Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011 notification of the proposal inviting submissions was published and one submission was made by the Council’s Placenames Committee who welcomed the proposal and the use of the bilingual version of the name. He said there would be a formal event planned for April.

The resolution was proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Ryan and agreed by all.

5. Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 – Active Travel Scheme Coxtown Road, Dunmore East – Pedestrian Crossing

J. Murray, SE, gave an overview of the scheme to undertake the construction of a new Footpath (approx. 50m) and Pedestrian Crossing on Coxtown Road (L4203) at Coxtown East. This scheme is funded by the NTA Active Travel programme. The objective is to improve walking and cycling routes, improve connections with existing footpaths and create safer crossing points for pedestrians.

Proposed by Cllr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr. Daniels and agreed by all.

6. Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended Planning & Development Regulations 2001 as amended Part V111: – Active Travel Scheme - R675 Tramore Ring Road, Newtown Hill and Newtown Glen, Tramore - Pedestrian and cycle improvement scheme .

This item was deferred to a later date.

7. Annual parking permits – discussion document attached

F. Galvin, DoS said that the Report is presented to Council as a discussion document and said any changes would have to be published and adopt new Bye Laws.

Cllr. E. Quinlan asked if a compromise could be reached by issuing yearly permits in place of 52 weekly permits with no discount.

F. Galvin, DoS he will look into this and stated he is introducing a new smart phone parking app ‘park magic’ which would have a more convenient factor and will report back to the next meeting.

8. Correspondence

None

9. Motions

None

10. AOB

Cllr. F. Quinlan said there is a fallen tree in the St. John's river near entrance to Kingfisher and asked if it could be removed.

F. Galvin DoS confirmed that this will be reviewed.

Cllr. Power asked could flashing lights at pedestrian crossing be dimmed during the night.

Cllr. Bailey noted she gave wrong information regarding waiting period and should have said 4 weeks.

Cllr. Griffin congratulated Conor Nolan on the great exposure on RTE and Nationwide and stated the city looks well and Bernadette Philips.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____