

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

**Meeting of the Metropolitan District held in the Council Chamber, City Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022 @  
5.00pm**

**Present:**

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

**Officials in attendance:**

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

**Vote of Sympathies/Congratulations:**

Votes of sympathy were expressed to the families of the late Christine Guildea and Paddy Quinlan.

Vote of congratulations was expressed to:

Louise Richardson on being honoured at the Queen’s Jubilee.

Ladies U14 Ladies football team who won the All Ireland beating Donegal and who will be receiving a Mayoral reception in recognition for their achievements.

Siobhan Kennedy and Diane Behan who were champions in the World Triathlon Duathlon Championships in Romania which was a great achievement.

St. Pauls Parish on celebrating their Jubilee.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 were proposed by Cllr. Roche seconded by Cllr. Mulligan and agreed by all.

**2. Matters Arising,**

Cllr. Daniels looked for update on the taking in charge of the Paddocks on Williamstown Road.

Cllr. Murphy, D/Mayor advised details were listed on the Actions List.

Cllr. Power looked for copies of the letters sent to the EPA and Irish Water.  
H. Dunphy, MA stated she would email copies to Cllr. Power.  
Cllr. Bailey asked if an alternative location could be found for the proposed pride crossing.  
Cllr. O’Sullivan asked if monies raised from parking in Tramore could be used to fund outdoor gym equipment for Tramore.  
M. Quinn, DoS stated that funding for gym equipment needs to be discussed at budget meetings.  
C. O’Neill, SEE will discuss pride crossing options with responsible engineer  
Cllr. Conway supports the request for outdoor gym equipment in Tramore, stating that it is badly needed.  
Cllr. Mulligan looked for update on the fountain in John Roberts Square and street cleaning in the City Centre.  
Cllr. Barry asked if the Heritage Officer could organise an event to coincide with the ‘Reclaiming of the Water’ ceremony and if funding could be sought to communication more information on the history and heritage of the reclaiming ceremony.  
Cllr. Fitzgerald noted that no contact has been made regarding complaint about low hanging branches.  
Cllr. Kelly thanked the roads department for fixing the manhole on Vincent White Road and asked for update on the tender for the fountain in the People’s Park.  
M. Quinn, DoS said he will refer issues raised by Cllr. Barry to the Heritage Officer.  
R. Moloney, SEO said he will refer the issue of the fountain in JR Square to the City Centre Management Group and they are trying to find a solution to the city centre street cleaning. He advised that the tenders have closed for the fountain in the People’s Park.  
Cllr. Mulligan said that a specific vehicle is needed for the street cleaning similar to the one used successfully in Temple Bar.  
Cllr. Roche disagreed with the rationale in referring the fountain in JR Square to the City Centre Management group stating that that fountain needs to just work as a fountain and be addressed.

It was proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed by all to suspend standing orders to take item 6 before item 3 on the agenda.

## **6. Presentation from Waterford Chamber of Commerce**

John McSweeney President of Waterford Chamber gave a brief introduction stating that partnership between the Chamber and Council is critical and they have worked together with projects and would do so in the future. Gerald Hurley CEO advised that Waterford Chamber provides a range of services that support and nurture local businesses, whether an individual or a large company, they can assist in helping to take businesses to the next level with a variety of benefits including business to business networking events, training and seminars as well as a host of additional services. He said their mission is to be ‘The Voice of Business’ in Waterford dedicated to supporting, promoting and advocating their members while being the catalyst for creating a vibrant and sustainable economy.

The Mayor thanked Mr. McSweeney and Mr. Hurley for their presentation.

Councillors raised concerns regarding lack of footfall in City Centre, 24/7 Cath Lab, delay in runway for Airport, empty high-quality retail space in city, no music/conference centre in Waterford and support for start up’s.

Gerald Hurley noted that they have raised funding for EY to carry out a feasibility study on the City Centre which should be completed in the coming months.

Cllr. Roche requested that another meeting is scheduled with the Chamber pending completion of the EY Report. This was agreed.

### 3. Reports

Cllr. Barry asked for 2 trees to be planted in the Dr. Noel Brown park, he looked for update on the pedestrian bridge at Waterside carpark and pedestrian crossing lighting at Odeon cinema, Poleberry. He looked for update on the presentation of Lombard Street and John's Street and asked who would be responsible for the old streetlamps outside the Tower Hotel as they are in need of repainting.

Cllr. Wyse referred to the launch of the NTA bikes and asked how long the review period would take, he also asked for an increase in EV charging points and asked for website to be updated to show location of points on map.

Cllr. E. Quinlan asked for update on legal actions on the Grand Hotel. He asked if the council could contact the IDA regarding empty spaces that could be turned into parks, if free Wi-Fi could be provided in Tramore and stated that the rates for business's in Ballybricken is the same as City centre and that this is not right.

M. Quinn, DoS stated the rateable valuation is processed at National level, he will look at providing free Wi-Fi in Tramore, is more concerned that there are empty spaces in the IDA Business Park and would like to see them filled and will revert regarding details of Grand Hotel legal actions.

R. Moloney, SEO said he will identify the type of trees suitable for the Dr. Noel Browne park and plant at suitable time. He is engaging with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to identify locations for EV charging points and will create a link to map on website. He stated that hanging baskets are currently being erected on Lombard Street and Johns Street.

C. O'Neill, SEE said he is waiting on a consultant's report for the pedestrian bridge at Waterside, he will check the pedestrian lights at Odeon cinema and the old lamps outside the Tower Hotel. He said the bike scheme is being launched early July and will have to be running for a number of weeks before a review can take place.

Cllr. Kelly asked if CCTV cameras could be set up at Tramore Pier similar to ones in Boatstrand. He asked if the Train Station in Tramore could be considered for cultural theatre space stating it would be ideal and believes there is an application under the Towns & Villages Scheme in place. He said the footpath surface on the outer part of Ballybricken Green is very poor and also the footpath at St. Patrick's Gateway. He asked if we could write to the Department to ask that all Waterford be made a rent pressure zone.

Cllr. Power looked for update on the abandoned ship at Cheekpoint and for details of schedule of coastal repair works for Cheekpoint and Passage East following receipt of grant. He asked if the presentation team could go to Farmleigh and tidy up the estate and stated the surface and width of the outer path in the People's Park needs to be addressed.

Cllr. Mulligan looked for update on the Expression of Interest for Michael Street. He asked if the link road at Johnstown/Poleberry could be finished and if some of the trees planted in Farronshoneen Park could be relocated as they are impinging on the soccer pitch and if a warning letter had been sent to the Department regarding unauthorised works being carried out at Dunmore East.

M. Quinn, DoS said a CCTV audit was carried out and a number of issues were raised by the Regulator, he will check if the scheme in Boatstrand is compliant. He is looking at a feasibility study to check cultural space in Tramore and the train station is one option. He stated that an expression of interest is currently out for Michael Street and he will check closing date.

R. Moloney, SEO said he will check the surface of the path at the People's Park, he will put Johnstown/Poleberry on the list for clean-up and will check out the trees in Farronshoneen and the possible relocation of the goals.

C. Hartley, SEO stated the Housing Agency sets the rent pressure zones but she will take it back to the Department.

C. O'Neill, SEE said he will liaise with Environment regarding the footpaths in Ballybricken. They are trying to track down the owner of the abandoned ship to serve notice and he will look at cleaning up Farmleigh estate. He said he needs to discuss with the appointed consultants a detailed plan for coastal repair works.

H. O'Shea, SEP stated that a warning letter has issued to the Department of the Marine and they have a 4 week deadline for response.

Cllr. Daniels asked for an unstable wall in the Sycamores Estate to be checked out, a box junction to be painted at the junction of Percy Tce/John's Hill and road linings on the Williamstown Ring Road need repainting. He stated there is no parking ticket machine by the lady's slip, Tramore and asked if one could be installed there. He raised his concerns for a serious decline in tree planting in Ireland and asked had Waterford Council a tree planting plan. He also stated the cycle lane going out the Manor on the one-way system is dangerous as you are cycling against the traffic.

Cllr. Griffin stated the toilets at Ballinaneashagh cemetery and Pier in Tramore have been closed due to staffing issues and asked could community groups be used to open the toilets. He stated overhanging branches at junction of Morgan Street and Gracedieu Road are obstructing traffic lights and need to be cut back as with the trees at entrance to De La Salle College. He asked for the road at Newport Square to be re-surfaced and stated that the HAP rates are too low and causing the tenants to top up excessively which is not fair and asked if we could look at changing the criteria for Local Authority mortgages.

Cllr. Bailey asked if people that were unsuccessful in the LA Housing loans need to resubmit all documents when re-applying. She asked was there a plan in place for rightsizing and have tenants been contacted. She asked how often a boiler service is scheduled and how request for boiler service is logged. She looked for update on the market in Ballybricken Green and the footpath in Cherrymount.

C. Hartley, SEO stated there has been a revision of HAP rates at National level increased from 20% to 35%. There is a move to adopt a Rightsizing Policy at National level and this plan when completed will come before the SPC and Plenary for adoption. The period for boiler service is every 2-3 years and request for service can be made by contacting Customer Services who will log it on the Maintenance system and regarding the re-application for LA home loan documents it depends on the date of application as some of the documents may be out of date.

C. O'Neill, SEE said he will put box junction at Percy Terrace and repainting of lines on the Williamstown Road on the list. He will speak to the traffic section regarding ticket machine near the Ladies Slip, will look at road surface at Newport Square and a contractor has been appointed to work on the footpath at Cherrymount.

R. Moloney, SEO said there is a plan to plant 10k trees by 2030 with 1k planted in Cherrymount this year and he is currently looking for similar sites. He said there are staffing issues which are being rectified which should help with the opening/closing of the toilets.

M. Quinn, DoS stated that the market for Ballybricken green is not a priority and there are no resources or funding for the project.

Cllr. F. Quinlan stated there is a serious issue with people using council bins to dump their household waste and asked that warning signs be put on all bins advising of fines for illegal dumping he also asked for more presence by litter wardens. He looked for a pedestrian crossing between City Square and corner of Dunnes as the traffic is very busy there. He asked what the laws around noise pollution were as he was at a music session in Bailey's New Street and the music finished at 10:00pm while a few streets away music was still going on an hour later.

Cllr. Hearne looked for an update on the small piece of land at entrance to Belvedere. He asked that the bollards at the Cleaboy entrance could be fixed and looked for update on dumping in Central Avenue.

Cllr. Kiely asked if the hedge cutting out of season was for safety reasons stating that hedge cutting in Fenor for the triathlon was extreme, she also asked for more areas to be use for biodiversity habitats. She asked for fobs for the business to access the public realm in Tramore, when the car park would be open, bicycle racks for the bus station and overall plan for the boating lake area in Tramore. She looked for the chess pieces to be in place in Cathedral Square and congratulated the Communications Team on their campaigns for dog fouling and school streets.

M. Quinn, DoS stated the car park in Tramore is now open and when the bollards are in place for the public realm, fobs would be distributed to businesses. He is looking at an improvement plan for the boating lake area of Tramore and will talk to the museum regarding putting the chess pieces in place.

R. Moloney, SEO said he will look at putting warning notice stickers on bins. He doesn't have any update on Central Avenue, and they plan to expand the biodiversity areas year on year.

C. O'Neill, SEE said he will speak to the area engineer regarding the pedestrian crossing at City Square and will check out the bollards at the Cleaboy junction. He confirmed that the hedge cutting in Fenor was required for the triathlon.

H. O'Shea, SEP said that there were various ways to control noise pollution and it depended on the event and if a licence was required, but normally in a residential area there is a cut-off point of 10pm.

Cllr. Roche raised concerns regarding the roundabout at the train station stating that it is very dangerous, some traffic measures need to be put in place to allow motorists coming out the train station to exit safely. She also asked for an update on the relocation of the train station to the transport hub on the North Quays.

It was proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Kiely and agreed by all to extend standing orders by 15 mins.

Cllr. Conway requested update on the legal costs awarded to Waterford Council following legal action for the Grand Hotel stating that it is an eyesore and is affecting the economic viability of Tramore. He also looked for update on enforcement for illegal trading at the car park in Tramore and requested that enforcement should be included in the monthly Planning Report going forward. He asked that Kilkenny Co. Co. be contacted again regarding the presentation of the entrance to City at Sallypark.

Cllr. Fitzgerald referred to the issues at Dunmore harbour stating that there are issues with space for both tourism and fishing. He said it's a working harbour and priority should be given to the fishermen, and we should lobby the Government for a bigger harbour.

Cllr. Mulligan stated that it is a harbour for everyone.

M. Quinn, DoS will raise safety issue with Roads Department regarding roundabout at the Train Station and stated that Irish Rail are fully supportive of relocation to North Quays. He will again raise the presentation of approach to city from the North entrance with Kilkenny Co. Co.

H. O'Shea stated that any ongoing enforcement cases cannot be discussed for legal reasons.

**4 Section 48 environment (miscellaneous provisions) act 2011:**

a). Re-naming of Church Road (from junction with Paddy Brown's road L1515 to St. Paul's Church junction L90579-3) to Father Gregory Way – commencement of process

The resolution to commence the process was proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Murphy with the support of 16 Councillors

**4 Section 48 environment (miscellaneous provisions) act 2011:**

b). Re-naming of part of the Cork Road (junction with College Street L5517 to junction with Paddy Brown's Road L1515) to University Road– commencement of process

The resolution to commence the process was proposed by Cllr. Roche and seconded by Cllr. O'Sullivan with the support of 16 Councillors.

**5. Planning:** Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended Planning & Development Regulations 2001 as amended Part VIII Waterside Carpark - Commencement of Process

C. O'Neill stated in June 2012, the then Waterford City Council completed a Part VIII process in relation to the temporary development of the former Gasworks facility at Waterside for a bridge and car park, which

is owned by Ervia (Gas Networks Ireland). The decision to permit the development was decided on appeal by An Bord Pleanála on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013. The original Part VIII consent was time limited in that it allowed for the use of the property as car park for a six-year period only and this time has now expired. To allow the continuation of the site as a public car park, this Part VIII process is being commenced to cover the continuance of the operation of the car park for a further 3-year period. This further period is to facilitate an overall review by Ervia of their property portfolio pending any potential longer-term decision on the future of the site by Ervia. No new infrastructure or development is now being proposed however there is one minor change to the boundary of the car park in that an area to the west of the car park (directly behind the former Wander Inn) and comprising of circa 350 sq. metres (9 car park spaces) is being excluded. We believe that this part of the site is to be disposed of by Ervia to an adjoining landowner.

The resolution to commence the process was proposed by Cllr. Wyse and seconded by Cllr. E. Quinlan and agreed. Cllr. Daniels raised concerns stating that the Council have spent a lot of money developing the carpark and it should be in the ownership of Waterford City & County Council.

#### **6. Correspondence**

None

#### **7. Motions**

None

#### **8. AOB**

Cllr. Fitzgerald stated he did not receive a reply to the issue of low hanging branches affecting lorries.

C. O'Neill, SEE said will check with the area Engineer and revert.

Cllr. Mulligan supported Cllr. Daniels regarding Waterside carpark and suggested bringing it to the relevant SPC.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
D/Mayor

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