

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

Meeting of the Metropolitan District held by MS Teams on 28th March, 2022 @ 5.00pm

Present:

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| 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 |

Officials in attendance:

Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Services
Mr. D. Mitchell, SSO Corporate
Mr. G. Hynes, SE Roads
Mr. H. O’Shea Senior Planner
Ms. C. Hartley, SEO Housing
Mr. A. O’Shea, EE Roads
Mr. A. Kirwan, EE Roads
Ms. N. Keating, SEE, Roads
Ms. L. Grant, SSO Economic Development
Ms. B. Stosic, A/SEE Active Travel
Mr. J. Murray, A/SE, Active Travel
Ms. A. O’Shea, Corporate Department

Roll call for attendance carried out.

Vote of Sympathies/Congratulations:

Votes of sympathy were expressed to the families of the late Catherine Cheatle, Eileen Kiely and Maureen Keane, The Mayor expressed a vote of sympathy on behalf on the Metropolitan Council to Fergus Galvin on the death of his mother Leishe RIP.

Vote of congratulations were expressed to:

- Henry DeBromhead Freeman of the City on winning the Gold Cup for the second year which was a wonderful achievement.
- Waterford City & County Council on running a very successful St. Patrick’s Day Parade in both the City and Tramore.
- Peggy Halpin of Sweetbriar Lawn, Tramore former Librarian on reaching a significant birthday.
- Kieran Kehoe & Honor Dunphy on organising the Royal Visit which was a great success and to Mayor Joe Kelly.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 21st February, 2022 were proposed by Cllr. Daniels seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald and agreed by all.

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2. Matters Arising,

Cllr. Power look for answer to his query regarding flashing pedestrian lights near the Strand Hotel, Dunmore East stating that the guests were complaining of interrupted sleep due to the flashing.

F. Galvin, DoS advised that a minimum illumination standard applies to the belisha beacons at pedestrian crossings but that he would ask the engineer to see if there was any solution available.

Cllr. Daniels thanked the Council for the works carried out on the fencing at Grange Manor.

3. Reports

Cllr. Fitzgerald stated that there was flooding in the village of Passage East due to the heavy rainfall running down from Brookside and asked if there was funding in place to build a gully to trap the running water. He asked for the large eucalyptus tree in the back garden of a council property in St. John's Park to be removed for safety. He noted the pedestrian lights on the Dunmore Road between the Woodlands Hotel and River Cottage are not working and thanked the Council for the new pedestrian crossings in Dunmore East stating it will greatly benefit the village.

Cllr. Daniels asked if a footpath could be built near the city side of Faithlegg Hotel. He said that following works by a utility company, the Williamstown Road by the Anchorage is in a bad state and asked could the Council engage with the utility companies to ensure that the roads are reinstated following works. He said there is an ongoing issue with a dip on the Carbally Road which needs to be fixed and asked for signage to be erected at entrance to Goff's Wood also stating that there has been dumping of debris at the entrance which needs to be cleared. He looked for an update on CPO's and what housing stock we have following CPO.

Cllr. Murphy asked for an update on the public bicycle hire scheme, requested that a bus stop be erected outside the Educate Together school in Gracedieu and asked for an update on Transport Strategy. He also looked for update on the entrance to the North side of the Nature Park

G. Hynes, SE said he is aware of the flooding issue in Passage East and investigations are under way to find an appropriate solution.

F. Galvin, DoS said he will follow up on the pedestrian lights out near the Woodlands Hotel and will refer the request for footpath out near Faithlegg to the Active Travel Team. The signage for Cove Lane is in hand and should be erected soon and he will refer the dip in Carbally Road to the area engineer for investigation. The TFI public bicycle hire scheme is scheduled to launch as part of Bike Week in May. He will bring the bus stop at Gracedieu up with the NTA and said that the draft Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy is due to go out for public consultation later this Spring. Planning work is ongoing on a new entrance to the Nature Park from the North side.

C. Hartley, SEO said she will get CPO report from her delivery team and circulate to all Councillors.

Cllr. Wyse stated that a sign erected on approach to Rice bridge from Summer Hill is obstructing view of motorists and needs to be removed. He asked for the fencing on entrance to Bromley Crescent, Ardkeen Village to be repaired. He stated the bike scheme is a positive initiative and asked are there plans to extend the scheme out the Dunmore Road towards the hospital and Ballinakill Shopping Centre. He also asked are there plans to roll out more electric charging points in our Council car parks.

Cllr. Barry said following on from Waterford being voted 'best place to live' it would be beneficial to apply for the European Green Leaf Awards for 2024 which would be good to develop links with other European cities and would help with our climate change and biodiversity. He asked what was the status of the road closures in Mall Lane and Bank Lane stating that it was causing traffic congestion and suggested weekend closures only and he looked for update on the pedestrian bridge in Waterside which has been closed since November 2021.

Cllr. Conway referred to the condition of main entrances into the city particularly from the Grannagh Roundabout to the Railway station stating it is very grim and unkempt and he asked if a service agreement could be made with the responsible Local Authority to maintain and do planting on the entrance road. He said first impressions are very important and we need to work with the other Local Authority to clean up the road stating that Waterford is a gateway city.

F. Galvin, DoS said he will get the area engineer to check out the sign near Rice Bridge and relocate if necessary and also check out the fencing in Bromley Crescent. He advised that the first phase of the bicycle hire scheme is now fixed but would be reviewed in time depending on demand. He also said that he was engaged with a number of private operators who were looking to introduce public e-bike rental schemes which could both complement the TFI scheme and offer more flexibility. A strategy on EV charging points is being prepared at present and there is engagement at a regional level at the matter. He will look at the European Green Leaf Award but advised that at present the focus is on the Council's application under the EU Climate Neutral Cities mission and the EU Covenant of Mayors for Climate Action both of which have a very significant Green focus and are potentially of significant value to Waterford. He will engage with Kilkenny Co. Co. to clean up the access road into the City.

The Mayor suggested that questions be submitted to the Executive before the meeting so that answers can be given at the meeting.

Cllr. O'Sullivan asked if a ramp could be built at the men's slip to allow access to the beach for wheelchairs and buggies. She looked for update on the reopening of Galloway's Hill and asked what action was taken by the Environment Department in the attack on the dog at O'Keeffe's Cross while acknowledging the difficult work that the dog wardens do. She asked for a ladder to be installed at the men's cove in Dunmore East and that the ladder and bars at the Guillamene in Tramore be straightened. She thanked the area engineer for the recent walkthrough Tramore with a wheelchair user to identify areas that need to be improved for access.

Cllr. Griffin stated the lights in Rathfadden Villas have been out for a number of months despite logging the fault on numerous occasions, he asked have the new lighting contractors been appointed yet. He asked when the 4 months parking permits for Tramore are open could priority be given to people with disabilities and the elderly. He said while walking with a buggy around the city centre he noticed a number of roads which were opened up by utility companies were not reinstated properly and stated that this was unacceptable and was difficult for both wheelchair users and buggies to traverse.

Cllr. Power asked for assurance for the stability of the road leading into Cheekpoint and if a safety rail could be erected on the new footpath. He stated that there is a smell in the City on still days coming from the rendering plant across the river and asked if the Environment Department could talk to the adjoining Local Authority to discuss the issue. He said that making a sculpture out of the fallen oak tree in the People's Park is a wonderful idea and asked for details on the upgrade of trees outside the Tower Hotel. He also looked for details of the Climate Action Literacy Programme advertised recently.

A. O'Shea, EE said they have tendered for works at the men's slip which will proceed shortly. He will check out the bars and ladder at the Guillamene. He will look at wheelchair access from train hill following walkabout with wheelchair user.

F. Galvin, DoS said the dog warden is investigating the incident at O'Keeffe's Cross and advised that the Gardai are now involved. He will contact the maintenance contractor regarding the lights at Rathfadden Villas and advised that a contractor has been appointed to retro fit all public lights with new LED heads and work is expected to commence in the Autumn and continue into 2023. He advised that the Galloway's Hill junction will reopen within the next week. With respect to the fallen oak in the Peoples Park, discussions are underway with a local tree sculptor to use the tree trunk in a sculpture to be located in

Waterford. He noted that the rendering plant in Ferrybank has an EPA licence and any complaints relating to odours or otherwise should be directed to the EPA. He confirmed that the Cheekpoint access road is structurally stable. With respect to the summer parking permits for Tramore, he advised that there were significant difficulties in continuing with this scheme following the LG Auditors advice in his most recent audit and the lack of any legal authority to have such a scheme in place.

G. Hynes, SE said that there is a national standard for reinstatement of roads after opening by utility companies. He looked for details of roads that do not meet the standard following works and will speak to the contractors. He stated that putting railings on footpaths would pose a safety issue for cyclists and said that the footpath mentioned is 2M wide which would give ample space to pedestrians to walk safely.

Cllr. F. Quinlan asked when the adult play equipment in the People's Park will be installed. He asked when works to tennis courts in Bernard Place, Ballybricken Green and Ballybeg playpark following funding of €250K from the Slaintecare Community Enhancement fund would commence. He asked if paid parking could be extended to the Upper Yellow Road as residents are complaining that workers are parking there because of the free parking and the residents are not able to park near their properties. He said that the Riverwalk from the bus station to plaza is strewn with litter and asked that a litter warden patrol the area to stop the littering.

Cllr. Bailey asked that an Accessibility Audit would take place following on from complaints from wheelchair users regarding access across the whole county. She looked for update on the Shop Front Improvement Scheme and asked would it be extended to other areas. She congratulated the Council on the tree planting out in Cherrymount but asked for future projects if notice could go out to all residents in the area as in this instance only 20 houses were notified of the event. She also looked for update on the works to Mount Congreve and opening date.

Cllr. Mulligan asked for improved signage to indicate closure of O'Connell Street and to erect bespoke signage to enhance the area. He said that more set down/pick areas are needed in the city centre to allow businesses to survive. He asked for the pocket park at the southern entrance to the City to be completed and asked for update on the erection of a stone gate alongside the city walls. He said the taxi rank in Manor Street is unsafe and needs enforcement and asked if S254 licences could be issued to businesses on the Quay to open mobile units on the Plaza.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that the new adult play equipment for the Peoples Park was currently out to tender and it was hoped to have the equipment installed by early summer and the improvement works to Ballybricken Green are currently being planned. There are no parking meters on the Upper Yellow Road as the area is not included in the Parking Bye Laws and a revision to the bye-laws would be required – the Parking Bye Laws will be up for review in the next 6 to 8 months and any additions can be considered by Council at that point. He noted that the river side footpath along the Quays is regularly cleaned by the Council and that litter bins are in place. He will look at doing an Accessibility Audit. With respect to O'Connell St, he agreed to contact the group who look after the road closure in O'Connell Street about signage. He is working on introducing more set down/pick up areas in the city and he said that the development of the pocket garden at the Manor has gone out to tender and should be developed in the near future and works will include seating areas, raised beds and lawns. He will speak to Rose Ryall about the stone gated entrance into the city from the southern side. The taxi rank on the Manor is a temporary solution and will be reviewed shortly.

A. Kirwan, EE said works to the tennis courts in Bernard Place will commence in early April.

L. Grant, SSO said that there were 71 applications for the Shop Front Improvement Scheme with a value of €307K which was oversubscribed as the budget is €20K for each area (City, Dungarvan & Tramore) and due to the significant demand in the urban areas she didn't see the scheme being extended due to budget constraints. She will revert regarding Mount Congreve. Funding has been received from Failte Ireland for lighting up the city walls and will be delivered this year so could be short term measure for raising the profile of the city walls at the southern entrance. She said that some of the casual trading licences for JR Square could be reallocated to the Plaza but she would have concerns that creating such an opportunity would cause displacement to existing providers located in close proximity to the Plaza.

Cllr. Kiely is happy that disabled access is being looked at for Queen Street but asked if the footpath by the Grand Hotel could be included. She asked if speed limits could be reviewed in Tramore following the new active travel works and looked for update on the walk through the public realm works in Tramore. She asked is there any plans to install solar panels on our council buildings and could a visit be arranged for Councillors to view one of the houses which has been retrofitted and speak to the residents. She asked had the Council any plans to install smart segregated bring banks and looked for update on Waterford Energy Bureau's amalgamation into the 3 Counties Energy Agency. She also referred to the dog attack at O'Keeffe's Cross stating that everything possible needs to be done by the Council and looked for timeframe when markings would be painted on the footpath by the AFC.

Cllr. Kelly looked for update on the fountain in the People's Park and also referred to number of pedestrian slip and fall incidents in the City centre. He looked for update on the recent seizure of horses at Gracedieu and asked if the both the men's and women's toilets at Tramore Pier could be opened this summer. He said that Mall Lane and Bank Lane were closed as a response to Covid and now need to be reopened to traffic.

Cllr. Roche asked for information on the car sales business set up on the North Quays. She asked if discussions could take place with the ESB to get more, fast EV chargers set up in our car parks. The Public Realm area between Penny's and McDonald's is sinking and needs remediation and she looked for update on plans for the old Waterford Crystal site and the planned Michael Street development. She said the lights at Ursuline Mews have been out for a number of months and has been advised that it's an issue with the ESB, she asked if this could be rectified. She also advised that the 2 pedestrian crossings at the WIT are not working. As a result of building works the set down area at St. Ursula's Primary school has been taken over and she asked for it to be replaced. She asked are plans in place this year to have the Biodiversity Corridor and if a walk-in facility is in place in Waterford for the Ukrainian refugees stating it will be badly needed.

Cllr. E. Quinlan asked if the missing twinning signs at entrance to Tramore could be located and put back up. He asked for a date for the opening of the Bilberry Road stating that there is traffic chaos at the top of the town with the extra traffic using this route. He asked for extra-large bins to be installed on Ballybricken Green due to the increased volume of people using it and if funding could be found to create a public park in Tramore stating that one is badly needed for the young people.

Cllr. Hearne asked if the cliff walk from Dunmore East to Ballymacaw could be extended towards Brownstown and Saleens. He said there is no footpath between the Industrial Estate and Carriganore and one is badly needed and could form part of the Active Travel plan.

F. Galvin, DoS said disability access is considered on all new schemes. He advised that there will be a special speed limit bye-law review later in the year which will allow people to make submissions regarding adjusting speed limits. He said the Public Realm works in Tramore are still in progress and a walkaround for Councillors could be arranged closer to completion. The Council has installed Solar PV installations at a number of its own sites and is currently looking at extending the number of these. He advised that a new Deposit and Return Scheme for plastic and aluminium drink containers including smart bring banks is to be launched later this year which would address the recycling of these items. The Council is now a member of the 3 Counties Energy Agency and this agency is currently re-branded as the South East Energy Agency to reflect Waterford's membership. With respect to the fountain in the People's Park, he noted that the preparation of a design and tender documents for this had been very complex but it has now gone out to tender and a contractor would be appointed as soon as possible. He noted that there has been a small number of complaints regarding slips in John Robert Square over the years but stated that all surfaces had been specified to meet with the required standards. He advised that four horses had been seized on a public road in January following a complaint by the Gardai and of these one had been returned to the owner on payment of the fees, a second had been rehomed and the remaining two are being held at the pound. He agreed to look at reopening the men's toilets at Tramore Pier and stated that the closure of Mall Lane is currently under review. The installation of fast EV chargers is really a matter for the commercial operators and the Council would raise the matter with them. The light outages at Ursuline Mews and WIT will be referred to our contractor for attention, the provision of a replacement set down area at Mount Esker will be considered Ursula's and the Biodiversity Corridor initiative will be ongoing for this year. He said the Bilberry Road

will not be opened until the end of the year and will look at providing extra bins for Ballybricken Green. Regarding a people's park in Tramore he advised that the first step would be to zone land for the purpose in the draft Development Plan. He will talk to the Active Travel team regarding a footpath out to the Butlerstown Roundabout and a temporary licence has been issued from Property Management for car sales business on the North Quay.

A. O'Shea, EE said the footpath opposite the Grand Hotel needs to be widened and he will discuss funding with the Active Travel team. The markings and signage for the new path in Tramore are in hand and he will check out the missing signs and get them re-installed.

C. Hartley, SEO said she will talk to her Estate Management Team to arrange a visit to either Shanakiel in Dunmore East which has been retrofitted or Mount Neil housing development which has air to water heating. She said that reception centres have been set up at all airports and ports to work with the Ukrainian refugees and the community response forum has been reconvened to meet and greet. She said there is a call out to the community to look at facilities as there may be up to 4,000 refugees across Waterford. DSP staff are visiting and issuing PPN numbers within 48 hours of arrival. There are 187 refugees in hotel accommodation in Waterford.

L. Grant, SSO said she will seek clarification from Rural Economic Development regarding the extension of Dunmore East cliff walk and get update of Michael Street development from Kieran Kehoe.

4. Event Licence – Spraoi Festival 2022 – Commencement of Process

It was proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. O'Sullivan and agreed by all to commence the process.

5. Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 – Active Travel Scheme - Knockenduff Road, Tramore – Signalised Pedestrian Crossing – for approval

B. Stosic, SEE gave an overview of the Scheme and stated there were ten submissions received during the statutory consultation period.

Cllr. Griffin welcomed the scheme and said it will attract walkers and asked if the road leading into the area could be maintained for the safety of walkers.

Cllr. Kelly also welcomed the scheme but raised concern regarding anti-social behaviour and asked if it became an issue could the scheme be reversed.

Cllr. Kiely supports the scheme stating it will be great for the area so residents can get safely to school and work and asked if submissions raised could be considered.

F. Galvin, DoS said he will enforce the hedge cutting in the area and said if there were serious ASB issues following the works then it would be fully reinstated.

Cllr. O'Sullivan asked regarding the submissions how many were from the area or outside stating it is important to hear from people from the area and asked if people could indicate where they lived in their submissions.

F. Galvin, DoS noted that a public consultation was open to anyone and that all submissions regardless of where they came from had to be considered.

Proposed by Cllr. Griffin and seconded by Cllr. Kiely and agreed by all.

6. Road Works Programme 2022 – for Approval

Cllr. Conway stated that he was not happy that residential estate roads were getting sufficient priority in the programme and therefore would not be supporting the Road Works Programme.

Cllr. Kelly stated he will support the programme but agreed with Cllr. Conway that there was not enough attention to estate roads and asked that next year's programme included estate roads.

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

Cllr. Fitzgerald said that the scheme was an excellent job and asked for more resources for all roads.

Cllr. Daniels agreed that it was an excellent programme but would have concerns regarding roads funding and looked for supplementary funding and asked if it is a fixed price project or will inflation affect the costs.

Cllr. Bailey is in favour of the programme but asked if there was additional funding could estate roads be looked at.

The Roads Works Programme for 2022 was proposed by Cllr. Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald with Cllr. Conway noted as not supporting.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that a number of roads in estates were included in the programme and said all decisions for works were based on the criteria of condition of roads and volume of traffic. He also said that the condition of roads is getting slowly worse due to insufficient resources and noted that there may be price increases when tenders are received which may lead to cut back on scale of works and if the opportunity arises he will apply for further supplementary grants as year progresses.

7. Correspondence

None

8. Motions

None

9. AOB

The Mayor noted that this was Fergus Galvin's last meeting as manager of the Metropolitan District and thanked him on behalf of himself and fellow Councillor's for all his hard work and help which was greatly appreciated.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____