

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting of the Metropolitan District held by MS Teams on September 2022 @ 5.00pm

Present:

Cllr. Joanne Bailey	Cllr. Cristiona Kiely
Cllr. Donal Barry	Cllr. Lola O’Sullivan (Deputy Mayor)
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. Seamus Ryan
Cllr. Joe Kelly	Cllr. Adam Wyse

Apologies: Cllr. Jason Murphy (Mayor), Cllr. Joe Kelly

Officials in attendance: Mr. B. Duggan, SEO, Economic Development
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
Mr. R. Moloney, SEE, Environment
Ms. C. Hartley, SEO Housing
Ms. H. O’Shea, Senior Ex. Planner
Mr. J. Murray, A/SE Active Travel
Mr. J. Gallagher, Kirwan, EE Roads
Ms. M. Nolan Reade, Corporate Department

In the absence of Metropolitan Mayor Cllr. Jason Murphy, Deputy Metropolitan Mayor Cllr. Lola O’Sullivan chaired meeting.
Meetings Administrator carried out the roll call for attendance.

Vote of Sympathies/Congratulations:

Votes of sympathy were expressed to the families of the late Hugo O’ Donovan and Maureen and Michael Dineen son.

Vote of congratulations expressed to: De la Salle Minor Hurling Team who were victorious in County Final, Ballygunner Hurling Team on their nine County Title, Erin Own U15 Ladies Team on their recent win, Tramore Area Engineer Alan O’ Shea on his promotion and move to Wexford, former councillor Eddie Mulligan on his new role in the Community Safety Partnership.

On behalf of all the members Deputy Mayor thanked Angela O’ Shea who covered these meetings for many years and welcomed Mandy Nolan Reade who is joining in place of Angela.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 18th July 2022 proposed by Cllr. Roche seconded by Cllr. Bailey and agreed by all.

Minutes from the adjourned Metropolitan District Meeting held on 19th September, 2022 proposed by Cllr. Power seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed by all.

2. Matters Arising,

Cllr. Power requested an update on the hulk berthed in Cheekpoint and development of Waterford as a Centre of Retail Excellence and as a breastfeeding friendly city.

Cllr. Ryan asked if there is any further response from Minister Harris regarding request to have a position on the governing body of SETU.

Cllr. Kiely asked for the removal of the wheel breakers in front of the skate park. She also asked for an update on issues as previously raised on campervan parking in Tramore, feasibility study for theatre in Tramore, Changing Places, the Water Spot building and hidden disability and age friendly parking in Tramore.

Cllr. Roche requested that the Railway Park design be circulated to all members, she also asked for an update on the painting on Carlisle Bridge between the Peoples Park and Courthouse.

J. Gallagher, EE, noted that will have update regarding the hulk in Cheekpoint by end of the week as advice is required from Marine Engineers.

3. Reports

Cllr. Fitzgerald feels there needs to be a better balance at government level between the private and social housing adaptation grants, adding private housing grant seem to be well funded whereas social housing grants do not have same amount of available funds. He spoke of sites in Coxtown area in Dunmore East which were handed over a number of years ago under Part 5, saying these are fully serviced sites and asking if the council are not going to use these sites would they consider selling them to local people to build through a finance scheme like Rebuilding Ireland. He asked if the carpark in middle of the estate in Hillside Drive could be looked at as it is dangerous and in need of some repair work, he also asked for an update on when yearly spraying of Knotweed would be carried out.

Cllr. Daniels noted the issue with lack of playing pitches in Waterford City East area, he is disappointed at the progress regarding development of any playing pitches, he asked if this could be considered in the future. He spoke about the recent announcement of the ceasing of the Suirway bus services, noting it is vital that a service is provided in these areas, requesting contact to be made with the Minister of Transport Department in this regard. He asked also for an update regarding a position on governing body of SETU adding he feels it is crucial to hold a position and knows Cllr. Ryan has raised this issue too.

Cllr. Ryan noted that residents of Lismore Park, Cork Road and Cherrymount have raised concerns about dangerous footpaths in these locations and enquired if footpath repair scheme could be put in place. He said a discussion was held at previous Metropolitan Meeting and at SPC meeting in relation to a mobile library which he feels is an essential service and asked if he could get an update on the progress. He also requested a copy of report if it was received from Bus Eireann regarding the extension of bus service route particularly in areas of Foxwood and Lacken.

C. Hartley, SEO, noted there was an announcement last week of an extension of Crió Cónaithe and the potential sale of services sites in Dunmore East, she will speak to delivery team and come back to members via action list. She also added it has always been acknowledged there is a disparity in the amount of funding received in relation to grants for social and private housing, officials have raised the issue at Department level and will continue to do so. It was outlined that provision of playing pitches would not be part of an overall estate development but would be part of a community development and noted that area is well serviced in relation to specific clubs pitches and will follow up on mobile library query.

J. Gallagher, EE, will revert regarding Hillside Drive, added that spraying of Knotweed is usually carried out yearly in September and will revert with update.

B. Duggan, SEO, will follow up on the bus service issues raised by Cllr. Daniels and Cllr. Ryan
H. Dunphy, AO, confirmed letter did issue to SETU with an acknowledgement received to date.

Cllr. F Quinlan stated that a number of councillors have raised the issue regarding the Peoples Park and need to provide CCTV particularly with increased anti-social behaviour noting damage to gym equipment within 24 hours of installation. He requested an update on the commencement of Summerland Square development on Military Road. He asked if roundabouts particularly at RSC/Kilbarry could be looked at with the view of making them more presentable. He asked if permission was requested regarding a large marquee erected in middle of street in Arundel Lane.

Cllr. Barry asked for clarification on the ownership of lands at Sunrise Crescent Claremont where the council only has right of way, he asked if the bike station on Park Road could be placed in the Park as it is causing congestion during peak times. He asked for update on a pedestrian crossing at Odeon Cinema and if family-owned business trading on Tramore Road selling logs can continue to trade like last year.

Cllr. Griffin spoke of the issues with fires in Bowefield nothing there have been eleven brigade calls in the last week requesting if scrub could be cleared and if team could engage with new safety officer of the community safety partnership, he also queried if the community innovation fund from CAB money can be put into an action plan within the community. He congratulated the safe schools in Tramore project noting that immediate attention should be given to making the surround area of the school safe under a Section 38.

R Moloney SEO, outlined that the members made provision in the current year for lighting in the People's Park, the initial element of a bat survey has commenced and will be considering options for CCTV under the new Circular Economy Bill. He expressed his disappointment at the damaged gym equipment and confirmed it was repaired and is fully functioning again.

C. Hartley, SEO noted that Summerland Square is due to go to tender at the end of the year and due to commence onsite early 2023.

J. Gallagher EE will get an update on roundabouts and will follow up on the issue of the pedestrian crossing at Odeon Cinema.

H. O' Shea, SEP, said marquee in Arundel Lane is not authorised and the planning department is investigating in relation to Sunrise Crescent she stated a section 254 licence can be submitted but council can only grant a licence application on their own property.

J. Murray, A/SE, noted the point regarding the bike station and will address issue with NTA, Active Travel also intend to do drone surveys during peak times on Park Road areas adding this information would be very useful regarding bike station. He confirmed that there is a Section 38 currently out on public display in relation to Tramore as referred to by Cllr. Griffin.

B. Duggan, SEO, said council have carried out extensive casual trading byelaw and designed particular areas for casual trading and the area Cllr. Barry refers to is not in designed area, the people it concerns could talk to casual trading department to identify other trading areas that are available.

C. Hartley, SEO, noted that the community innovation fund Cllr. Griffin referred to is under Community Safety Partnership and understands that submission were lodged for that area.

Cllr. E. Quinlan requested update on public Wi-Fi in Tramore Town Centre, enquired if Roads Department could consider reintroducing scheme in relation to annual parking passes in City Centre, Tramore and Dungarvan. He said the Dominican order are moving out of Waterford asking if contact could be made with the order and the bishop in regard to the buildings. He asked if Kilkenny Council could be contacted regarding issue of rubbish in Ferrybank Play Park. He added that 20% of population in Waterford were not born in Ireland and asked if there are provisions for burial grounds of other faiths?
Cllr. Roche asked if she could have update on Moyers estate, noted that the path leading down to Ursuline school from Folly roundabout needs to be repaired as it seems a section was missed during previous repairs in the area. She asked why the Gasworks carpark bridge is closed and when it will be reopened, requested if a yellow box could be put in right hand lane at the roundabout by Poleberry as there is a lot of traffic congestion. She asked if there are any plans in the short to medium term for social housing plans in

Dunmore. She also asked if members could see the City Centre Regeneration Plans before they are submitted to department.

Cllr. Bailey asked if the sweeper could be scheduled for the path leading to Ursuline school as it is slippery with falling leaves and may also need some repairs. She concurred with issues raised regarding CCTV for Peoples Park and was disappointed to see the damaged gym equipment but is glad to hear it is fully functioning again. She outlined scheme that is run in Wexford in relation to a Residents Reward Card which enables residents to get discounted tourist/amenity visits and business discounts enquiring if similar could be operated in Waterford. She thanked Michael and Leo from Estate Management Department team that attended Lisduggan to look at plans for Central Avenue Green, noting that residents raised concerns that general cleaning of the area needs to be done and requested mini sweeper and cleaning of drains to be scheduled for the area.

Deputy Mayor Cllr. O' Sullivan returned to chair meeting.

J. Gallagher, EE, with revert with details on annual parking permits.

B. Duggan, SEO, will get an update on the Wi-Fi in Tramore Town Centre.

R. Moloney, SEE, noted that in Kilbarry Cemetery there is section that is non domination which is adequate for the present needs and will contact Kilkenny Council in relation to the rubbish in Ferrybank Play Park.

C. Hartley, SEO, noted that Moyers Estate if it is not a housing issue and is not on housing agenda to resolve, regarding provision of social housing in Dunmore East area that from the housing delivery plan it is in line with the demand in the area, nine units to be delivered over the course in Dunmore East and then Passage East and Crooke, depending on availability of land and suitable proposals Dunmore East could be considered under the affordable housing fund adding that affordability of coastal areas is on housing teams agenda. Will pass on thanks and feedback to the tenancy management team.

J. Gallagher, EE, will follow up on the issued raised by Cllr Roche regarding the missed section of repair works, and will also get an update regarding the delay in opening of the Gasworks bridge and will refer issue regarding the yellow box by Poleberry to area engineer. Areas as outlined for the road sweeper will be scheduled.

B. Duggan, SEO, will enquire with the team about members viewing City Centre Regeneration Plans prior to submission. He said regarding visitor attractions the museum pre-covid opened with free access in November he will enquire if this will be happening again this year and if other attractions such as Museum of Time will be included, regarding resident reward cards that would be an issue for Chamber of Commerce, and he will relay this to Chamber.

Cllr. Power expressed his disappointment at the fact that the council would not support a memorial located on the Quay of the Mud Boat which is on the rocks in Wexford he asked if council could reconsider their decision. He asked if report was available from Inland Fishery Ireland regarding the sodium hydrochloride bleaching of Councillor's Cove. He spoke of the ABP Rendering Plant noting that while Waterford Council have objected to the extension of the plant he urged all members to lodge an objection too, he also called for permanent relocation and for plant to be closed down in Waterford.

Cllr. Conway queried bus shelters in Tramore he read part of a letter he received in May 2021 from NTA regarding their engagement with Waterford City & County Council on the development of initial bus shelter program for County Waterford with hopes of finalising program for implementation in 2022 as the program does not appear to have progressed and no correspondence since received and he asked for an update. He also queried a report of a proposed ESB sub-station in Moonloun Tramore enquiring if any planning application had been submitted for this type of development. He also called on Arts Officers to carry out an audit of possible recipients and locations of blue plaques.

Cllr. Hearne asked if a previously reported light in Larchville could be fixed, he requested vacant fields in Ballybeg to be cleaned up and added that they could also be used for playing fields that Cllr. Daniels referred to earlier in the meeting. He said there is a wire fence at the turn into Ballybeg that is in very bad condition

and needs to be repaired. He is supportive of the issue raised by Cllr. Griffin of fires in Bowfield noting it is also an issue in Richardson Meadow, outlining that a proactive approach needs to be taken.

B. Duggan, SEO, will follow up on the Mud Boat query and report back to Cllr. Power.

R. Moloney, SEE, clarified the water quality issue in Dunmore East is matter for Water Services but he is aware of request from EPA for a report to be carried out and will follow up on the issue. In relation to ABP licence application he confirmed Waterford City & County Council have already made a submission to EPA. Cllr. Roche suggested that a proactive approach could be taken in relation to Cllr. Powers issue on Mud Boat by forming a committee with possible location to progress that idea to council.

H. O' Shea, SEP, is not aware of any planning application for substation and will check if they have claimed an exemption in that area. She will get feedback on fence/gate as referred to by Cllr. Hearne. Deputy Mayor requested map of fields in Ballybeg, and which ones are owned by council, and which are not for future planning as she feels it's important if lands are available that they would be made available on lease basis to sports clubs like Cllr. Daniels suggested.

J. Gallagher, EE, will get an update on bus shelters in Tramore and will follow up on lights in Larchville. Deputy Mayor confirmed that blue plaques are the responsibility of the Civic Trust.

Cllr. Kiely took the opportunity to give thanks to Active Travel and James Murray on all work at school street in Glór na Mora, and stated it is important to progress the Section 38 which would help an additional three schools. Requested a solution for the crossing at the roundabout by racecourse and outlined that it is critical the members get opportunity to see new road safety measures plans internationally and in other locations in Ireland and to see their effect and asked if a study trip can be arranged. She added signage as requested previously is needed at end of public round for no park and access for emergency vehicles and asked when Watmaps will be adopted. Regarding the 360 route to Tramore she requested another letter be issued to Bus Eireann as five services were cancelled yesterday.

Cllr. Roche asked for update on the fountain in People Park and John Roberts Square.

Cllr. O' Sullivan received email from Newtown Guillamene Swimming Club stating the toilets are closing end of next week for winter period she asked if council could engage with the swimming club and consider keeping toilets open for another 1/2 months. She was grateful for receiving report from Failte Ireland on water facility at lower prom, she added she has a serious issue with Active Travel in relation to the amount of bike parking they installed, the lower prom is a unique area with National Life Guard Training Centre and T-Bay Surf club which is the oldest surf club in Ireland, this area hosts a huge community of water based sport using a lot of water equipment which could not be brought to the prom by bike only by car, no consultation with business or clubs noting that two more car spaces removed to facilitate additional bike racks, she feels strongly that communication is need in order for communities to buy into active travel.

J. Murray thanked Cllr. Kiely for her comments regarding new school system in Glór na Mara and added it is good to see Gaelscoil and ETB students are also getting benefit from this, he added there is a preliminary design for a one way cycle travel which would cover all roundabouts on the Ring Road and this will be submitted to NTA for review he would be hopeful to bring a sufficient scheme forward to tie into Part V111 that is currently out for Newtown Hill. Regarding site trips a delegation went to Dún Laoghaire /Rathdown during summer and confirmed the NTA will also support trip to Dutch Embassy Holland, Active Travel is engaging with Corporate Services to see if this trip is possible. He added Watmaps publication is due in October 2022. He noted that should have communicated regarding the additional works and notes the Deputy Mayors points, he added it was felt there was ample parking in that area.

Deputy Mayor agreed with Cllr. Kiely's comments on the 360 bus asked if the Meeting Administrator could write to Bus Eireann.

R. Moloney, SEO, assured Cllr. Roche and all member that his department are actively working on both fountains, currently carrying out investigations in relation to John Roberts and Peoples Park tenders have been examined, the cost is higher than the original budget and may need to look at some design changes to reduce cost, he hopes to be able to give definite timeframe before next meeting.

4. Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended Planning & Development Regulations 2001 as amended, Part VIII Waterside Carpark

It was agreed that item number 4 be deferred to next meeting.

5. Correspondence

Noted

6. Motions

None

7. AOB

Cllr. Roche requested a letter be issued to Department of Health and demand to know when the service is to be restored to city regarding Breast Check unit which was removed from RSC Waterford in 2019.

Cllr F. Quinlan informed members that the Solas 10K annual fundraising run is back this year on 9th October and would encourage everyone to participate.

Cllr. Fitzgerald said he supports Cllr. Daniels on raising issue of Suir Way Bus service ceasing, Deputy Mayor agreed that all members are fully supportive of contacting NTL.

Cllr. Griffin asked if some blue and white bunting/flags be put up in RSC to show support to new owner and Waterford United in cup semi-final.

Cllr. Bailey confirmed she submitted questions through Deputy Cullinane's office asking Minister for Health if he would address the provision of mammogram service in Waterford and asking for reasons the breast check unit has moved from Cork Road Waterford to Dungarvan, Cllr. Bailey received a response and is happy to share if any of the members want it states it is in tandem with Waterford and mobile unit goes to different locations.

Deputy Mayor thanked everyone for their patience today, this concluded the business of the meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____