

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

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10th NOVEMBER, 2016 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CITY HALL, THE MALL, WATERFORD**

PRESENT:

Cllr. Adam Wyse Mayor	Cllr. Ray Murphy
Cllr. Liam Brazil	Cllr. Pat Nugent
Cllr. Breda Brennan	Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell
Cllr. John Carey	Cllr. John O'Leary
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Michael J O'Ryan
Cllr. Declan Clune	Cllr. Cha O'Neill
Cllr. Tom Cronin	Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr. Davy Daniels	Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan	Cllr. Seán Reinhardt
Cllr. Blaise Hannigan	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. James Tobin
Cllr. John Cummins	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Joe Kelly	Cllr. Siobhan Whelan
Cllr. Declan Doocey	

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Eddie Mulligan

VOTES OF SYMPATHY:

A vote of sympathy was extended to Cllr. Joe Kelly on the recent passing of his sister, Kathleen Kelly, on Friday 4th November. As a mark of respect the Council Meeting was adjourned for five minutes.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive
Mr. M. Quinn, Director of Services, Corporate, Arts, HR & IS
Mr. L. Power, Director of Services, Economic Development & Planning
Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services, Housing, Community & Emergency Services
Mr. J. Murphy, Head of Finance
Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Services, Roads, Water & Environment
Ms. H. O'Shea, Senior Executive Planner
Mr. E. Ruane, Meetings Administrator
Ms. S. Walsh, Senior Staff Officer

1. Confirmation of Minutes

- (a) Plenary Meeting of 13th October, 2016, proposed by Cllr. Doocey and seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed.
- (b) Special Plenary Meeting held on 25th October, 2016 proposed by: Cllr. Brazil and seconded by Cllr Daniels and agreed. Apologies by: Cllr Cummins and Cllr O'Leary to be noted

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Roche enquired about the date for Economic Development workshop, she also asked about the response re the Cardiologist meeting for 24/7 cover. She enquired about the Outer Ring Road and the Boundary Commission report and the Third River crossing. She referred to the Carriglea court case again and the potential exposure for the Council. Cllr Fitzgerald wants clarification about the Council's influence over charges in respect of water connections. Cllr. Griffin asked for an update on the workshop for Homelessness.

The Mayor, said that he had a response on 24/7 cardiac care from the 3 Chairs of the local authorities and he will contact the Cardiologists and will revert back to Council with details of the meeting. The Chief Executive in relation to the Third River crossing stated that the Council is working on it with the consultants and are discussing costs etc and will have a report for the Council in January. He will arrange an economic development meeting. There was no news on Boundary Commission. He stated that the Council is working on the Outer Ring Road and will report as soon as possible. F.Galvin, DOS said that the Carriglea court case was deferred and the Council is working closely with the EPA. He will discuss water connections with Councillor Fitzgerald. I.Grimes DOS said he will arrange a workshop on Homelessness and he expected the Boundary Commission report to be issued shortly.

Cllr. Cummins enquired about an update on SDZ. Cllr. Conway enquired if the Council had received any acknowledgement from the TII in relation to the motion at last month's meeting.

L. Power, DOS will brief council on SDZ in January as there is more work to be completed by the end of the year so it will be more opportune to brief the council in January. F.Galvin, DOS said that a letter was received back from the TII stating that the N24 was not considered a priority. He will circulate a copy of the letter to the Councillors.

3. Planning

- (a) Planning lists as circulated were noted.
- (b) Notice of proposed variation to the Waterford City Development Plan 2013-2019, the Waterford County Development Plan 2011-2017 & the Dungarvan Town Development Plan 2012-2018 in order to:
 - (i) Incorporate the requirements of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, in relation to the implementation of the Vacant Site Levy
 - (ii) Incorporate the requirements of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, to apply Part V to developments of 10+ houses with 10% social housing requirement

Variation (i) above was proposed by Cllr. Power and seconded by Cllr. Hearne and agreed

Variation (ii) above was proposed by Cllr. Power and seconded by Cllr. Hearne and agreed

4. Land Disposals

Proposed by Cllr. Cummins, seconded by Cllr. Brazil and agreed

Questions were raised about the slipway at Passage East Ferry and the level of Rent.

M.Quinn, DOS said that the rent was increased for a new lease and will re-assess and talk to the company. In relation to land bank he will give details of large quantities of land held rather than the small parcels. F.Galvin, DOS said that Wexford County Council charge the same rent for the car ferry in Ballyhack and also there is a rent review every 5 years

5. Monthly Management Report

Cllr. Doocey asked about the turnaround time for vacant houses. He also remarked that there was a high number of accidents on footpaths and that Cobblelock was causing a lot of problems. Cllr. Daniels requested an update on the changes in the Community Services staffing structure. He also enquired about the Waterside car park. He asked about the EPA legal proceedings and has there been any Land acquisitions in recent months. Cllr. Pratt requested a report on the Choice Based Lettings scheme, is it working and has it been successful. He wanted people to be made aware of the Repair and Lease scheme. He also enquired if there was any change in the Part 5 provisions and an update on Tenant Purchase.

I.Grimes, DOS said there was no change in the Tenant Purchase Scheme and Part 5 is still excluded but the Minister will be keeping this under review. The Repair & Lease Scheme was advertised this week and he would encourage Councillors to promote the Scheme as much as they could. There were 14 properties on CBL – 12/14 to be allocated. 5 offers made at present. With regard to Community Services there is new estate management brief and 3 Estate Officers will be involved. House vacancy turnaround rate takes an average of 21 weeks and are looking at ways to improve it.

L. Power, DOS said that works on the Waterside carpark/gaswork site is to commence on 21st November. Cllr. M J. O’Ryan hoped there would be a continuation of the emergency out of hours service for the winter as it is badly needed and is the lifeline of rural areas. He commented on the LEADER and Town & Village briefings and the total different timelines for both. Cllr. O’Leary referred to the carparks provided on the Greenway and enquired if there were any plans to have CCTV provided for them. Cllr. Hearne welcomed the Community Development Officers.

F.Galvin, DOS said that the EPA case was deferred. He said that there are ongoing claims for footpath trips/falls but that we do risk assessments on our estates and ensure best quality material is used. The Winter maintenance plan is in operation since October and will operate through to April.

I.Grimes, DOS said that the Council is working with the Community on anti social problems and will revert. L. Power, DOS, said that the timeframe for the Town & Village Scheme was out of our control. LEADER was subject to approval of LCDC so we will know when the information sessions are taking place. 380k was awarded to Waterford so the Council can now engage with communities to carry out work. There are no proposals to put CCTV on the Greenway carparks.

Cllr. Cronin’s query was referred to the District meeting. Cllr. Brennan was disappointed to see no houses available under CBL scheme this week. She asked if there was a winter plan. Cllr. Cummins asked about the Living City Initiative and if we are we ready for it. He welcomed the new development with the Greenway and to see its progress, and was there any engagement with Kilkenny and Wexford with regards extending it to Rosslare. He remarked that the Finance figures, Income & Expenditure, were right on target and would there be a surplus at the end of the year and explain the balance on the Collection figures.

I.Grimes, DOS said that the CBL is still a Pilot and unless there is a vacant house there will be nothing on CBL.

L.Power, DOS said that there was a minimum take up of the Living City Initiative and would welcome new developments.

F.Galvin, DOS said that the Winter Plan is in place and the details are on our website.

I.Grimes, DOS said that Emergency Services are always in place.

J Murphy, HOF said that a surplus is anticipated at the end of the year. The Rent collection figure of 99% is based on current year accrual.

Cllr. Kelly asked when the work at the Applemarket will be completed, this was a District matter. In relation to Footpath repair is there a date when this will be finished in the metro area. Cllr. Clune said

that there was only 1 new housing capital project and was there any possibility we can get more projects online, also that the turnaround of housing stock was high compared to Dublin and Cork can this be improved.

I.Grimes, DOS, stated that the Council vacancy turnaround is 21wks and are constantly looking to improve this. With regard to Capital projects the Council is actively looking at these with developers.

L.Power, DOS said that the Council intends to carry out a Safety Audit on the Greenway and any issues/concerns will be raised and dealt with.

Cllr. Power complimented the Greenway and asked can seating be put on a stretch of this road.

Cllr.Hannigan requested an update on the Airport and the runway extension. Cllr. Griffin wanted an estimate of the cost of bonfires and anti-social behaviour to Council. He proposed if in the future we could organise small street parties with the communities it might alleviate the situation.

L.Power, DOS, the Council is looking at what facilities, seats and other products that are needed for the Greenway.

Chief Executive said that there was no further update on the Airport and design work and costings are being prepared for the runway extension – no change at present.

F.Galvin, DOS said that he had no details of the cost on bonfires to Council to hand but that the Council worked closely with the Gardai to prevent/ reduce risk by removing material (wood) etc, and any other sources.

I.Grimes, DOS said that there were 50 incidents reported to the Fire Service across the City and County and he will look at the proposal on Community based parties for the future.

Cllr. Murphy asked about boiler servicing report. With regard to purchasing houses for re-letting he enquired as to where are the pressure points in relation to housing – i.e. 2 bed & 3 bed and would Repair & Lease scheme solve this problem. Cllr. Fitzgerald enquired when is County Development Plan is going to be replaced by a City and County plan. He said there was an Environmental issue for people living near bottle banks/clothes banks with litter issues and under the contract the Council has with the companies can we ensure the companies keep these areas clear and clean so can Council write to them. Cllr. Roche wants an update on the capital cost of the Greenway and asked can the Greenway entrance from Bilberry be re-routed through WIT and will roadworks be suspended for the Christmas period.

I.Grimes, DOS said that he will send on boiler maintenance information. The Council is actively looking for all types of houses and that the data on Housing Needs Assessment is still being assessed but there appears to be a high trend for 1-2 bed houses. The Repair & Lease scheme will be signed off tomorrow – and will be advertised this week and he encouraged all the Councillors to spread the word about this scheme.

F. Galvin, DOS will be addressing the issue of bottle banks and reminding providers of their obligations. The Roadworks programme will be winding up in the next couple of weeks and hope to avoid the Christmas period.

L.Power, DOS, said that with regard to the current Development Plans, there are 3 in operation up to 2018. However, due to the amalgamation the Council is under instruction not to make a Development Plan until the National Planning Framework is completed. This is expected to be completed mid 2017. When preparing a new plan it can be about 82-104 weeks.

Chief Executive will report on the Capital programme in January. The Greenway wouldn't work coming through the city but we are looking at every other option as there are still problems with safety and he will revert to Council before any decision made.

Cllr. Nugent wants it clarified who has Right of Way on the Greenway and will the Council have a Code of Use and proper signage. He said the EPA issued a damning report on water quality and in regard to our inhouse testing how does the Council fair out. Cllr. O'Neill expressed concern about the train station service to Waterford and feared that the Station House would close as a number of lines already closed. Can we write to the Minister to ensure this won't happen. Cllr.Tobin wanted to know do you have to be on the housing list to get housing loan. In respect of Planning variations, can we bring one in to get land zoned as waiting until 2020 is too long.

L.Power, DOS- We cannot bring in variation re. land until the National Planning Framework is published. The Council is looking at signage etc to protect users of the Greenway and a code of practice is being prepared.

I.Grimes, DOS replied that it is not necessary to be on the Council housing list to get a house loan.

F.Galvin, DOS said that he will be getting a comprehensive report from the EPA on water areas that need improvement and detailing the source of problems which will determine the course of action to be taken.

Chief Executive stated that he is in touch with Irish Rail constantly and the new strategy in place, 2030 Rail Network Strategy, details the improvement of facilities in Waterford in the document.

Cllr. Brazil asked what can be done about non-zoned land in an area. Cllr. Geoghegan commented that as Councillors if we cannot zone land until the National Planning Framework comes out can we not vary current plans.

L. Power, DOS said that we are instructed that amalgamated authorities cannot commence a plan until National Planning Framework is in place.

6. Finance

It was proposed by Cllr. Quinlan, seconded by Cllr. Geoghegan and unanimously agreed that "Overdraft facilities in the sum of €13,000,000 for the year ended 31st December 2017 be approved"

7. Nomination to Boards/Committees

- (a) Nomination to SOMA Gallery Board – Cllr. Tobin proposed that Cllr. E. Quinlan be nominated to the Board, seconded by Cllr Cronin and agreed.
- (b) Approval of Garret Wyse to Economic Development & Enterprise SPC as replacement for Andrea Galgey.

Nomination of Garret Wyse was proposed by Cllr .O' Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. Clune and agreed.

8. Comhairle na nOg Presentation

Nora Furlong, Comhairle na nOg Co-ordinator introduced the presentation by Riain, Craig, Katie and Megan, members of Comhairle na nOg.

Cllr. Brazil proposed that this presentation be made annually to the Council in November, seconded by Cllr. M J O' Ryan and agreed.

9. Correspondence

That the Training and Conferences circulated and Receptions as circulated be approved.

Proposed by Cllr. Pratt, seconded by Cllr Brennan and agreed.

10. Notice of Motions

1. Motion in the name of Cllr. Jason Murphy and Cllr. John O'Leary

"That this Council's Economic Development and Planning Department would establish a taskforce of suitably qualified individuals to explore and exploit any potential economic opportunities for Waterford as a result of Britain's decision to leave the EU (Brexit)."

Proposed by Cllr. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. O'Leary, and agreed

2. Motion in the name of Cllr. Joe Conway

"Waterford City and County Council calls on the GAA to reverse its policy of selling the exclusive broadcasting rights of Gaelic Games to subscription viewing channels and to return to the long held position of the GAA that ensured all televised Championship Gaelic Games are shown on terrestrial "Free to Air" channels for all to see".

Proposed by Cllr. Conway, seconded by Cllr. M. J.O’Ryan- against (Cllrs. Cummins, Geoghegan) therefore the motion was recorded by Majority vote

Standing Orders were suspended for 10 minutes to complete the business of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr. O’Ryan, seconded by Cllr. Cronin and agreed.

11. AOB

L. Power, DOS introduced a Section 85 planning application from Kilkenny County Council in respect of the development of 62 meters of the Greenway from New Ross to Waterford, which is in Waterford City & County Council’s administrative area. L Power recommended acceptance of the application.

Acceptance of the application was proposed by Cllr. Quinlan, seconded by Cllr. Cummins and agreed.

Cllr. M J O’Ryan requested that the Council write to EIR and ask them to present to the Council their plans for broadband for the area as some villages have little or no broadband. Cllr. Power said that people should call on the elderly and vulnerable people these long winter evenings to check on them. Cllr. Cronin said that with regard to taking housing estates in charge, that the public lighting was turned off in some estates as the lights were not paid for.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____