

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 5  
Environmental Protection, Water Services & Energy  
Held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018**

In the Chair: Cllr. Tomas Breathnach

In Attendance: Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Joe Malone, Sadhbh O'Neill, James Murphy, Michael Nugent, Eamonn Morrissey, Cllr. Breda Gardner, Cllr. Maurice Shortall.

Also Present: Mr. Sean McKeown, Director of Service  
Mr. Seamus Foley, A/Senior Engineer  
Ms. Catherine Millea, Senior Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr. Ger Frisby

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**Item 1** **Minutes of SPC 5 Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018**  
Proposed by Cllr Maurice Shortall, seconded by James Murphy and agreed:  
“that the minutes of SPC5 meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018, a copy of which was circulated to each member with the Agenda, is hereby adopted”

**Item 2** Sean McKeown gave an update on the Climate Adaptation Plan. It was noted that local authorities have agreed a regional approach with the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment (DCCA) for the preparation of the statutory County Adaptation Plans. There will be 4 national Climate Action Regional Offices and Kilkenny is located within the Eastern & Midlands Region for which the lead local authority is Kildare County Council. The Climate Action Regional Offices will lead the development of a framework to assist local authorities develop their statutory Plans. Effective implementation of both the National Adaptation Framework and the National Mitigation Plan will be the key drivers in the development of the framework and the Plans.

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach referred to the official opening of the Granny Recycling Centre.

Sean McKeown advised that the notice of motion submitted by Cllr Melissa O'Neill regarding the use of glyphosphate had not been successful at the recent Council meeting. Following discussion it was agreed that it is still worthy to consider this matter as part of the SPC5 programme. A discussion took place with comments from Sadhbh O'Neill, Cllr. Breda Gardner, Cllr. Pat Dunphy and James Murphy. It was agreed that there is a need for more research and debate. Staff should be trained in and educated about the safe-use of pesticides. It was agreed that a short report should be prepared on the matter by the Parks Department in consultation with the Heritage Officer.

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach acknowledged the work undertaken by all staff of the Council and other agencies dealing with the recent storm events.

**Item 3**

**Environmental Noise Regulations-KCC-Implementation Plan 2019/2023**

Michael Nugent gave a presentation and he advised that a public consultation process will take place from the 28<sup>th</sup> of May. There is currently major noise from airports, trains, and major roads. Michael also stated there is no current funding for the implementation of the plan. There is a need for the public to be aware that it is for major noise only and not nuisance noise. Input was given from James Murphy, Sadhbh O'Neill, Cllr. Breda Gardner and Cllr. Pat Dunphy.

**Item 4**

**Waste Bye-Laws**

Seamus Foley provided an update on the draft waste bye laws. Following discussion it was noted that the bye laws cover a broad range of issues and that in this regard they should be brought before the next SPC meeting for agreement to allow the Committee members to fully consider them. The following contributions were made:

- Cllr. Pat Dunphy stated that it was important that litter/waste offenders are named and shamed if convicted. He also said that the bring banks have a new tender issued by Tipperary County Council.
- Cllr. Joe Malone referred to the issue of illegal dumping in Newpark 'Fen'.
- James Murphy said that farmers are seeing increased incidents of public dumping on their lands.
- Sadhbh O'Neill raised the issue of communications by waste collectors with their customers. She said that there is a lack of clarity in relaying information to the public.
- Cllr. Breda Gardner said that cameras at the bottle banks are needed and she asked about plastic waste.
- Cllr. Maurice Shortall asked if the 'Adopt a bottle bank scheme' was still in place.
- James Murphy said that there is a possibility that Aldi, Lidl and Supervalu could take ownership of the bottle banks on their sites as a 'give back' to the community.

Sean McKeown and Eamon Morrissey responded to the above queries:

- only a reporter present in court at the time that person was convicted can report the name of the person concerned.
- there are plans to clean up the area under the anti-dumping Initiative in 2018.
- the legislation provides that waste collectors are obliged to have a customer charter. This is provided under the Waste Management (Collection Permit) regulations, which state that there is an onus on waste collectors to prepare a customer charter for household kerbside waste collection.

**Item 5**

**Control of Horses By-Laws**

Sean McKeown gave a brief introduction on the background of the bye-laws. Seamus Foley gave an update and circulated details of the draft exclusion areas being considered. A discussion took place.

## **Item 6**

### **Any Other Business**

Sean McKeown informed the meeting that the closing date for the Local Agenda 21 Funding Applications is the 20<sup>th</sup> June next.

The latest draft of the Animal Welfare Charter was circulated. It was noted that additional issues have been addressed following input from the Committee at the last meeting. It was agreed that the Animal Welfare Charter should be presented to the Council for adoption.

It was agreed that the next meeting of SPC5 would be held on afternoon of Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018.