

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 5  
Environmental Protection, Water Services & Energy  
Held on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2019**

- In the Chair:** Cllr. Tomás Breathnach
- In Attendance:** Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Breda Gardner, Cllr. Ger Frisby, Cllr. Maurice Shortall, James Murphy, Shem Caulfield, Brian Hamilton.
- Also Present:** Mr. Sean McKeown, Director of Service  
Mr. Frank Stafford, A/Senior Engineer  
Mr. Paul Murphy, Assistant Engineer  
Ms. Bernadette Minnock, Assistant Staff Officer  
Ms. Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer  
Ms. Claire Goodwin, Landscape Architect

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Before the meeting commenced Cllr Maurice Shortall offered his sympathies to the Chairman Tomas Breathnach on the recent loss his of his brother. A minutes silence was held in his memory.

- Item 1**                    **Minutes of SPC 5 Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2018**  
Proposed by the Chairman Tomas Breathnach, seconded by Cllr Breda Gardiner and agreed: “that the minutes of SPC5 meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2018, a copy of which was circulated to each member with the Agenda, is hereby adopted”.
- Item 2**                    **Climate Action**  
Paul Murphy gave a presentation on the updated position of the Climate Action Adaptation Plan. He advised that the draft plan will be available for review by the SPC by mid February. Frank Stafford informed the meeting that Kilkenny County Council has made a submission to partner with the Climate Action Regional Office, Kildare.  
Cllr Maurice Shortall complemented Paul on the success of the workshops held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.
- Item 3**                    **Bring Banks**  
Frank Stafford gave an update on the Bring Centres to the meeting. The rebranding of the Bring Centres, involving 280 individual receptacles, within the City and County was completed in 2018. The Regional tender for the collection from these sites was awarded to Glassco Recycling Ltd in late 2018. Circa 1,642 tonnes of glass and 109 tonnes of aluminium and steel were collected from these sites in 2018. Frank Stafford passed on an invite to the committee for a site visit to Glassco and it was decided to wait until June 2019.

### **Textile Recycling Receptacles**

Frank Stafford advised the meeting that the number of textile banks at our bring centres has increased from 24 to 65, 41 being unauthorised. Following discussion, it was agreed that notice be given to the textile companies to remove all unauthorised banks, failing their removal KCC will remove and dispose of same. Frank Stafford further updated that it is proposed to tender for a new service to regularise textile banks at bring centres, with a maximum of 2 banks proposed at larger sites. The committee agreed with the proposed tender, proposed by Shem Caulfield and seconded by Cllr. Maurice Shortall.

### **Update - Waste Management Enforcement**

Sean Mc Keown advised the meeting that a total of 66 No. Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued to date in 2019 under the Litter Pollution Act, 1977, for littering offences around the City and County. This shows a marked increase Year to date compared with the total of 95 Notices issued in 2018 with the use of CCTV for detection and evidence gathering.

#### **Item 4**

### **National Spring Clean**

Frank Stafford advised the meeting that registration for the National Spring Clean 2019 is now open. As at 5<sup>th</sup> February An Taisce has received 49 registrations. The theme for National Spring Clean 2019 will be 'All roads Lead Home'. This theme will be rolled out on social and local media. To further support groups the Environment Section will make available litter picking equipment and will organise the collection of bags after their spring clean event.

#### **Item 5**

### **Insurance – Amenity/Graveyard Grants**

Tomas Breathnach, the Chair raised concerns that groups have with the costs of insurance. A discussion took place and it was agreed that contact be made with the PPN to establish if they have a blanket cover scheme in place for registered groups.

#### **Item 6**

### **County Kilkenny Waste Management Bye –Laws, 2018.**

Frank Stafford gave an update on the Waste Management Bye- Laws which came into force on the 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2019. It was noted that WERLA have agreed to advise on the proposed publicity campaign to alert households and businesses about the new bye-laws. This is a positive development but has delayed the roll-out of the awareness campaign.

#### **Item 7**

### **AOB**

Claire Goodwin and Dearbhala Ledwidge presented their report on the use of glyphosate, in particular to clarify the current EU policy around its use. Dearbhala also gave copies of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015 – 2020. The next meeting was proposed for the 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. It was agreed that the next meeting would focus on the draft Climate Adaptation Plan.