

**Minute of Strategic Policy Committee 5
Environmental Protection, Water Services & Energy
Held on Thursday, 10th November, 2016 at 3pm in Meeting Room 1 & relocated to the
Council Chamber at 4.30pm for the Waste Presentation as all elected members invited**

In the Chair: Cllr. Maurice Shortall

In Attendance: Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr Breda Gardner, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Joe Malone, Mr. James Murphy, Cllr. Ger Frisby

Also Present: Mr. Simon Walton, A/Director of Service
Mr. Carol McCarthy, A/Senior Engineer
Ms Bernadette Moloney, Environmental Awareness Officer
Mr Mike Nugent, Environmental Enforcement Officer
Ms Ann Maria Brennan, County Veterinary Inspector

Apologies: Ms. Sadhbh O'Neill

Item 1 Minute of SPC5 Meeting held on the 8th Sept, 2016

Proposed by Cllr. Brennan, seconded by Cllr Malone and agreed:- “that the minute of SPC5 held on the 8th Sept., 2016, a copy of which was circulated to each member with the agenda, is hereby adopted”.

Item 2 Working Together to Improve Dog Control and Animal Welfare

Mr Mark Beazley of Dogs Trust provided a presentation on their organisation detailing their prevention activities to limit the surrender, abandon and the destruction of dogs by re-homing, reduction of dog numbers by neutering and education.

Provided statistics indicated an improvement; in 2015 13,051 dogs entered the pound system, either as a stray or surrendered as unwanted by their owner, of those 5,211 were reunited with their owner or re-homed directly by Pound staff whilst just over 5,900 were transferred to animal welfare organisations.

Since opening the Dogs Trust HQ in Dublin in 2009, they have rescued, rehabilitated and re-homed over 6,000 pups & dogs. All dogs are neutered, micro chipped, vet checked, receive worm/flea and kennel cough vaccinations. & now Dogs Trust has 3 hubs located in Wexford, Mayo and Leitrim.

Education Officers completed 1,535 workshops were delivered in 2015 to 46,500 children in schools, youth and adult groups and a dedicated education website – www.learnwithdogstrust.ie.

Mr Beazley complimented the Council for the continuing improvements at the Carlow/Kilkenny Dog Shelter. The chair thanks Mr Beazley for his presentation and for all the work Anne Marie Brennan does in the county relating to animal welfare.

Contributions: Cllrs. Shortall, Malone, Brennan, Frisby & J Murphy

Item 3 A Burial Ground update on capital works was provided to each member with a review of the grave yard grant scheme detailing current grave yard community projects.

Item 4 **Indicative Air Monitoring in County Kilkenny**

Mike Nugent gave an overview of issues relating to air pollution in Ireland and briefly outlined the current EPA national ambient air quality programme.

Kilkenny has one monitoring location (Kilkenny City) but Wexford County Council have their own monitoring locations in regional towns providing real time data regarding air quality that benefits people with respiratory problems.

M Nugent suggested that the SPC 5 members recommends a similar project to Wexford be established in Kilkenny and install a monitoring station in a regional town in Kilkenny at a cost of approx €13,000 + €250 (annual charge for calibration). This would produce data and also act as an awareness tool for the public.

Cllr Shortall recommended Castlecomer as a pilot, Cllr Brennan 2nd it. Cllr Malone also gave his support while J. Murphy queried if funding became available would it be better spent on a renewable energy project. Project was agreed on principal but the matter must be referred to the full Council.

Contributions: Cllrs. Shortall, Malone, Brennan, Frisby, Gardner, Dunphy & J Murphy.

Item 5 **SEAP Progress Report by Declan Keogh (Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency)**

D. Keogh & F. O'Loughlin delivered a power point presentation on the progress made on the draft Sustainable Energy Action Plan.

Key Points

- A workshop took place with the agricultural sector to receive comments to feed into the SEAP Action Plan
- Correspondence has been received with the Society of Irish Motor Industry and a meeting will take place in the coming weeks
- Residential element is expanding and positive feedback received from WIT
- The draft Executive Summary was circulated to the SPC 5 members
- A number of SEAP actions were reviewed to provide an example of the actions being included in the Plan. D. Keogh agreed to circulate the whole report to all SPC 5 members and permit a two week turn around for feedback.

It was agreed to put the SEAP on the Council Agenda in December or January.

Contributions: Cllrs. Shortall & J Murphy.

Item 6**Waste Management for Householders (Council Chamber @4.30pm)**

Director Simon Walton gave a presentation first outlining the national waste policy regarding the 3 bin system, pay by weight and the phasing out/the elimination of bags and the role the Council has to play.

Key Points

- Waste Collectors must phase in a 3 bin system in population areas over 500 between 2013-2016. Householders in these areas must segregate food waste from their normal refuse.
- The cessation of the presentation of waste in bags must cess by July 2016 except in exempted areas. The whole of Kilkenny County is exempted until Dec 2016.
- Kilkenny County Council has an obligation to ensure waste collectors offer householders a 3rd bin in areas >500.
- From recently published service indicators, Kilkenny is in the bottom 5 counties with a low brown bin uptake.
- Kilkenny Coco from the bag exemption forms received must now identify and designate areas for bag collections
- Kilkenny Coco to decide whether extend the bag derogation until the exemption maps are finalised.

Contributions: Cllrs. Cavanagh, Malone, Fitzpatrick, Doherty, Breachnach, Dunphy, Noonan, Gardner, Brennan, & Doyle.

Meeting Ended at 5.40pm