

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 5  
Environmental Protection, Water Services & Energy  
Held on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 at 3pm in Meeting Room 1**

**In the Chair:** Cllr. Maurice Shortall

**In Attendance:** Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr Breda Gardner, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Mr. James Murphy

**Also Present**

**Ms Mary Mulholland, Director of Service  
Ms. Carol McCarthy, A/Senior Engineer  
Ms. Emir Slattery, A/Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms. Catherine Millea, Senior Staff Officer**

**Apologies:** Cllr. Ger Frisby

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**Item 1 Minute of SPC5 Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

Proposed by Cllr. Brennan, seconded by James Murphy and agreed:- “that the minutes of SPC5 held on the 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2017, a copy of which was circulated to each member with the agenda, is hereby adopted”.

**Item 2 Update on Water Services Capital Projects**

Ms. Emir Slattery outlined the projects under the Minor Capital and Major Capital projects. Discussions took place on a number of the projects and Ms. Slattery to respond with further clarification where sought.

Contributions from:

Chairman Maurice Shortall, Cllr. John Brennan, James Murphy and Cllr. Breda Gardner.

**Item 3 Litter Enforcement Procedures in County Kilkenny**

Ms. McCarthy provided a power point presentation which updated the members. A discussion took place on the budget element of the presentation.

Ms. McCarthy advised that the Litter Management Plan is under review. A discussion took place on the Anti-Dog Fouling Campaign. It was agreed that the education programme is working. Cllr. Gardner requested a list of the locations of litter bins for disposing of dog poo bags. The Chairman stated that there is a need for visible enforcement. Mr. Murphy stated there is a need to look at education in schools. Ms. McCarthy responded that work is being done under the Green Schools Programme. The Chairman stated that there is a need to look at a possible alternative to the Green Schools Programme for secondary schools. Ms.

Mulholland advised that the programme is an An Taisce programme and they have responsibility for same.

Ms. McCarthy advised the members that a new CRM System (Customer Relations Management) has been introduced and that a presentation will be made at the monthly meeting of the Council. A discussion took place on the positive aspects of the new system.

**Item 4 CSO Environmental Indicators 2016**

Ms. McCarthy provided a power point presentation. A discussion took place particularly in relation to bathing water quality and river water quality. A request was made from the members for a map of Europe showing the water quality in the different EU countries. Ms. McCarthy advised that there is a map available and it will be provided at the Special SPC 5 meeting due to be held on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> June.

**Item 5 Brief Update on Dog Tender/Dog Shelter Improvements**

Ms. McCarthy advised that the closing date has passed and the Tenders are in. A further update will be issued in due course. She also advised that works are substantially complete at the dog shelter. It was proposed to hold the next meeting of the Dog Consultative Committee in the dog shelter and invite all members of SPC 5 and all Elected Members.

**Item 6 Brief Update on Graveyard Improvement Works**

Ms. McCarthy gave an update on the graveyard improvement works. The Chairman asked that congratulations be extended to John Tennyson on completion of Freshford Graveyard.

**Item 7 Animal Welfare**

Cllr. Breda Gardner expressed her concern about horse welfare. She sought clarification on who is responsible for the enforcement of same. The Chairman outlined that at a recent JPC meeting it was requested that a meeting of all parties concerned be organised. Ms. Mulholland outlined that caution needs to be observed and that public statements must be based on facts. There have been a number of inaccurate facts recently reported on Facebook. She also stated that there is a need for inter-agency co-operation and a protocol needs to be drawn up between all agencies.

Mr. Murphy stated that excellent work is being done at Kilkenny County Council and there is a need for this work to be highlighted.

A discussion took place on the Horse Project and Ms. Mulholland advised that some progress has been made.

**Item 8 AOB**

A discussion took place on the Draft River Basin Management Plan. It was agreed that a Special Meeting of SPC 5 would be held and all Elected Members would be invited. A date of Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 was agreed.

Ms. McCarthy also informed the meeting that Ann Phelan, LAWCO, has five public consultation meetings arranged to get the public's input into the plan. Public consultation will be key and LAWCO want to encourage local communities to get involved. It was agreed that the dates of the public meetings will be circulated to all Elected Members.

Cllr. Pat Dunphy sought clarification about the continued use of pre paid refuse and recycling bags. Ms. McCarthy provided clarification that the following householders can continue using bags:

- Dwellings such as apartments and terraced houses with no space for bins
- Dwellings on streets with narrow footpaths
- Householders with health/mobility issues
- Dwellings which have steps