

Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 4
Environmental Protection, Climate Action & Energy
Held on Monday 9th December 2019

- In the Chair:** Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh
- In Attendance:** Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, Cllr. Joe Lyons, Cllr. Malcolm Noonan, Cllr. David Fitzgerald, Mr. John Hurley, Mr. Noel O'Donoghue.
- Also Present:** Mr. Sean McKeown, Director of Services
Mr. Frank Stafford, A/Senior Engineer
Ms. Bernadette Moloney, Environment Awareness Officer
Mr. Eamonn Morrissey, Executive Chemist
Ms. Siobhán Stapleton, Clerical Officer
- Apologies:** Mr. Shem Caulfield, Mr. Laurence Conroy
-

Item 1 **Introduction to new SPC4 Meeting**
Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh formally welcomed the newly elected members and committee members to the SPC4. Everyone on the SPC4 introduced themselves and their role on the SPC4. She also welcomed Mr. Maurice O'Connor from Kilkenny Community Radio to the meeting.

Item 2 **SPC Overview**
Sean McKeown, Director of Services gave a slide presentation on the role of the SPC. Documentation was circulated to the committee.

Item 3 **Kilkenny Tidy Towns Forum**
Bernadette Moloney provided a presentation on the Summary of the Tidy Towns Forum. With over 20 communities competing annually, the forum aims are:

- Provide a network opportunity between tidy Town groups
- Social networking opportunity
- Provide council information on grants and initiatives
- Permits groups to showcase their towns and villages as forum location moves around the county

The forum participants decide on topics and speakers and the following are topics/activities for 2020.

- Developing a Tidy Towns 3-5 Year Plan, workshop to be provided to assist entrants to develop one
- Talk from a Tidy Towns Adjudicator – bring a positive role to it
- Tour of Glasslough who were winners this year and meet local tidy town committee.

The Tidy Town Forum venues for 2020 will be Inistioge (have a master composter), Tullahought, Kells and Bennettsbridge, the date and times will be advertised by the Council through media/paper/social media/email from Council/Radio promotion to encourage new entrants.

Item 4

RMCEI Works Programme for 2020 (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections)

Eamonn Morrissey gave results for the year in which we achieved an excellent score for 2018, well above the national target which is a result of inspections carried out and a High result from our 2019 Inspection Programme. He also gave an update on the Anti-Dumping Initiative.

Item 5

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024

Frank Stafford noted the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 was adopted in September 2019 and he outlined the key actions under the following headings:

1. Energy and Buildings
2. Flood Resilience
3. Resource Management
4. Transport
5. Nature Based Solutions.

Item 6

Tree Planning Commemoration Programme

Frank Stafford gave a short report on this programme. To mark 120 years as a local authority, 30 semi-mature trees were planted in each Municipal District. Trees were also planted to mark 40 years of the Rotary Club, 30 years Civic Trust and 25 years Cat Laughs. We took control of Woodstock 30 years ago and it is intended to replace trees there which were destroyed in the storms.

Item 7

Horse Bye-Laws

Sean McKeown gave a short overview on this stating that the Bye-Laws are being revised to introduce an exclusion zone within Kilkenny City Centre.

Item 8

Correspondence

Information documents were distributed on the layout and structure on how the SPC works.

Item 9

Any Other Business

Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh is delighted to be back on the new SPC Committee and looks forward to working with the Committee for the next 5 years.

Item 10

Agree Schedule for 2020 Meetings

It was agreed provisionally to set the dates of the SPC meetings for 2020 from 2p.m. to 4p.m. on 9th March, 8th June, 14th September and 14th December.

