

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 4**  
**Environmental Protection, Climate Action & Energy**  
**Held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 11.00am**  
**Remotely by MS Teams**

**In the Chair:** Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh

**In Attendance:** Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, Cllr. David Fitzgerald, Cllr. Joe Lyons, Cllr. Maria Dollard, Mr. Noel O'Donoghue, Mr. Laurence Conroy, Mr. John Hurley and Mr. James Murphy

**Also Present:** Mr. Sean McKeown, Director of Service; Ms. Anne Marie Shortall, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. Bernadette Moloney, Environmental Education/ Awareness Officer; Mr. Paul Murphy, Executive Engineer; Mr. Eamonn Morrissey, Executive Scientist; Ms. Catherine Millea, Senior Staff Officer.

**Apologies:** Lawrence Conroy

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Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh advised that this is her last meeting as Chair. She welcomed Cllr David Fitzgerald as the new Chair of SPC 4 who will be taking over from the next meeting. She thanked everyone for their involvement and attendance at all previous meetings. She wished Cllr David Fitzgerald all the best in his new role as Chair.

**Item 1 Declaration of, interests**  
None reported.

**Item 2 Confirmation of Minutes**  
Proposed by John Hurley, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen and agreed: *“that the minutes of SPC4 meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021, a copy of which was circulated to each member with the Agenda, is hereby adopted,”*

**Item 3 Matters Arising**  
Cllr Maria Dollard raised the matter of a Changing Facility at the Abbey Quarter development and suggested that the Mayfair Building, which is to ‘house’ the new City Library would be an ideal location. Sean McKeown advised that he would enquire into the matter.

**Item 4 Casual Trading Bye-laws**  
Anne Marie Shortall made a Presentation on the Casual Trading Bye Laws for the County. She advised that there are separate Bye Laws already adopted for the City. Anne Marie advised that the Draft Bye-laws will be brought to the to the full Council for approval before being placed on public consultation.

A discussion took place around the review of the Bye Laws and they received a broad welcome from the Committee. Anne Marie advised the meeting that the Council has received a considerable number of enquiries in relation to Casual Trading. Further to the discussions it was agreed that Sean McKeown would release a Press Statement about the Council’s intention to review the Bye Laws to help stimulate local interest. It was also agreed that the review of the Casual Trading Bye Laws be placed on the Agenda of the next SPC 4 meeting.

**Item 5 Progress Report by the Director of Services.**

It was noted that the progress report was circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Sean McKeown gave a brief update on some of the items listed in the progress report.

It was agreed that Carol McCarthy be invited to the next SPC 4 to give an update on the impending publication of the Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland – 2022 – 2027.

**Item 6 Update on the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2021**

Eamonn Morrissey gave an update on the projects approved funding under the Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI). Eamonn advised the meeting that the ADI aims to reduce incidents of illegal dumping nationally by providing funding for projects aimed at tackling the problem. Eamonn also advised the meeting that work has commenced on these projects and it is hoped to have all works completed by end of September.

Project No.	Project Title	Total Amount Approved
1.	Continuation of the Bikes for Africa Scheme 11 Local Authorities now involved in the Scheme.	€8440.00
2.	Bulky Waste Collection day. Amnesty for bulky waste - €5 per household	€26,000.00
3.	Media campaign using mywaste.ie info.	€9,000.00
4.	Clean up of River Barrow at Rose Kennedy bridge	€16,000.00
5.	Clean up of Bishops Mountain, South Kilkenny Check points in conjunction with An Garda Siochana will also be carried out	€5,000.00
6.	Clean up of Stroan Fountain area at Kilfane Will work with the Community Group in the area	€11,000.00
7.	Clean up of Fairways Estate Removal of Laurel trees. Reinststate fencing	€5,500.00
8.	Clean up of Cootes Hill Signage. Continue the good work which Kilkenny Borough staff have commenced	€6,000.00
9.	Clean up Mooncoin area Install security fencing	€5,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>€91,940.00</b>

Mary Hilda Cavanagh raised the issue of illegal dumping and illegal fires. A discussion took place and Eamonn Morrissey advised the meeting that the Waste Enforcement Authority (WERLA) provide expertise in relation to Enforcement and court proceedings. He also advised that there is a litter line number which the public can phone to report any incidents of littering and illegal dumping.

The issue of CCTV was discussed and members of the Committee expressed the need for the installation of more CCTV around the county. It was noted that the Minister for the Environment intends to bring forward legislation to clarify the legal position with respect to the use of CCTV cameras in gathering evidence to prosecute cases under the Litter Pollution and Waste Management Acts.

A discussion also took place around the disposal of mattresses. Concern was expressed about the correct disposal of mattresses. Eamonn Morrissey advised that the Dunmore CAS accept mattresses for disposal. A further discussion took place in relation to illegal dumping and the ongoing issues in relation to same with contributions from Cllr Joe Lyons, Cllr Maria Dollard, Cllr Deirdre Cullen and Noel O'Donoghue. Cllr Maria Dollard also raised the issue of the provision of toilet facilities at the proposed new Bio diversity and Recreational Park at Dunmore. It was noted that the Park will be developed in a number of phases in the coming years and the provision of toilets will be considered in that context.

Sean McKeown gave a brief update on recent court prosecutions. He also advised that sentencing in relation to any prosecution is at the discretion of the Judge on the day. Mr. McKeown advised that members of the public should not tamper with any evidence found when reporting littering and/or dumping incidents as the Enforcement Officer needs to check the evidence first so that it can be given in court.

#### **Item 8 Any other business**

James Murphy raised the issue of roadside verges. He expressed concern for walkers and cyclists where verges are over grown. He also enquired as to what farmers should do to report over grown verges.

Sean McKeown advised that the issue is a matter for the relevant Area Office. He advised that it comes under road legislation and the Area Office liaise with landowners in relation to safety.

Cllr Joe Lyons enquired about the possibility of the Environment Department publishing a quarterly report on enforcement activity.

Sean McKeown advised that the Chief Executive's monthly report contains information on litter fines issued and other enforcement activity. He stated that the Environment Office can examine ways to improve the dissemination of this information.

#### **Item 8 Date of next meeting**

10<sup>th</sup> September at 11am