**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 4**

**Environmental Protection, Climate Action & Energy**

**Held on 7th February 2024**

**Meeting Room 2/Hybrid**

**In the Chair:** Cllr. Joe Lyons

**In Attendance:** Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Cllr. Maria Dollard, Cllr Denis Hynes, Cllr David Fitzgerald, Ms. Mary Rice

**Also Present:** Mr. Sean McKeown, Director of Service; Mr. Michael Arthurs, Senior Executive Officer; Ms Dearbhala Ledwidge, Climate Action Officer, Francis Brophy, Ms. Margaret Whelan, Environmental Awareness Officer, Ms. Catherine Millea

Apologies: John Hurley, Kilkenny Chamber

**Item 1 Declaration of interests**

None reported.

**Item 2 Confirmation of Minutes**

Proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Maria Dollard and agreed: *“the minutes of SPC4 meeting held on the 2nd October 2023, are hereby adopted,”*.

**Item 3Matters Arising**

Ms Mary Rice requested that the Agenda and minutes of previous meetings be sent out earlier. She also requested that individual contributions be recorded in the minutes.

**Item 4 Climate Action Plan**

Dearbhala Ledwidge gave an update on the Chief Executive’s Report on the submissions to the

Draft Kilkenny County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029. Dearbhala presented a very detailed and informative Presentation.

**Item 5 Litter Management Plan**

Mags Whelan gave a Presentation on the Draft Litter Management Plan 2024 – 2026. Margaret advised that Kilkenny County Council is currently at Stage 2 of the development of the Plan which is the Statutory Consultation Phase. Mags advised that the Plan has to be approved by the SPC before it moves onto the Public Consultation Phase.

Mags advised the meeting that Kilkenny County Council has been nominated under the “Green Collaboration” category of the National Green Awards for “Team Up to Clean Up-Together for Kilkenny 2023”. This will take place in **The Clayton Hotel, Burlington Road on Tuesday, February 27th.**

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh stated that there is a huge amount of dumping and littering. She said there is a need for CCTV and that the Council should be able to name and shame.

Cllr Joe Lyons asked what people who do not have a collection service can do with their rubbish. He also asked if the Council can liaise with private waste contractors.

There were also contributions from Cllr Maria Dollard and Cllr Deirdre Cullen.

**Item 6 Progress Report by Director of Services**

Sean McKeown, Director of Services, advised that the Director’s Report issued with the Agenda.

Cllr Maria Dollard raised the issue of people advertising the sale of turf and she also enquired about the number of air monitors in Kilkenny.

Sean McKeown informed the meeting that the Council is intensively engaged with the sector and he will have further updates later in the year.

Michael Arthurs informed the meeting that there is air monitors in Thomastown, Castlecomer and the city, near the EPA building.

Francis Brophy advised the meeting that 82 Inspections have been carried out under the Solid Fuel Regulations. There is a possibility of three cases arising from the inspections.

**Item 7 Any other business**

Michael Arthurs advised the meeting that there are 14 active burial grounds in Kilkenny under the control of the Local Authority and that there are only a limited number of plots left in Kilbride cemetery, Callan. He also advised that the environment office is currently engaging with other LA’s in relation to developing a policy around graveyards.

Cllr David Fitzgerald enquired about the possibility of the Council taking over/taking in charge historic graveyards and parish graveyards.

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh stated that people should be able to buy plots in advance and that she would be against any policy that would prevent this.

Sean McKeown advised that there is no facility for Kilkenny County Council to take over Church graveyards.

Mags Whelan advised that Kilkenny came 4th out of 40 entries in the recent IBAL results.