



KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & WATER STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 9TH MARCH 2016

PRESENT:

Councillors: Seán Power, Íde Cussen, Brendan Young, Anthony Larkin, Fintan Brett

Environmental Pillar: Deirdre Lane

Farming Pillar: Tom Malone

Officials: Liam Dunne, Senior Executive Officer
Brian O’Gorman, Administrative Officer
Marie Callaghan, Assistant Staff Officer
Michael Holligan, Senior Engineer
Edel O’Brien, Executive Engineer
F Ibrahim Bargouthi, Senior Executive Engineer

Also in Attendance: Eileen Loughman, Principal Environmental Health Officer,
Eastern Health Board

APOLOGIES: Joe Boland, Director of Services
Cllr. Fiona McLoughlin Healy

1. MINUTES

Minutes of meeting of the 9th December 2015 were agreed.
Proposed by Mr Malone and seconded by Cllr Brett

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- North Kildare Civic Amenity Site – raised by Cllr Young
It is noted that the Environment Section is continuing to identify suitable sites for the development of a civic amenity site. Mr Dunne agreed to keep the members informed of progress. Any proposed site will first be presented before the Celbridge-Leixlip MD.
- 8. Any Other Business “Landowner’s Responsibilities”– raised by Mr Malone
This matter was referred to the Transportation, Safety & Emergency Services SPC.
- Control of Horses Bye-Laws – raised by Cllr Cussen
It was confirmed that following the public consultation period the matter would return to the Municipal District Committees. Separate bye-laws will need to be initiated at the Celbridge-Leixlip MD and Maynooth MD to deal with any issues in these areas. Current issues should be brought to the attention of the Environment Section as current legislation may be sufficient to deal the problem.

3. To CONSIDER SPC STANDING ORDERS FOR ADOPTION.

- Point 5 - Attendance.

Mr Malone asked if a substitute could attend a meeting, particularly for the voluntary groups, as he felt it was important that the organisation be represented. Cllr Cussen agreed with this proposal.

- Point 2 - Notice of Meeting

Cllr Young asked for a review to give 5 clear working days notice for meetings, instead of 3.

- Point 13 - Suspension of Standing Orders

Cllr Young asked for a review so that consent is changed to not less than two-thirds, instead of three-quarters.

It was agreed these reviews would be submitted to the Protocol Committee.

4. TO RECEIVE A BRIEFING ON CFRAMS (FLOOD MANAGEMENT) PROGRAMME AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

Ms O'Brien advised that a study was undertaken to identify flood risks and the options to solve them. as part of the CFRAM (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management) Programme, being led by the Office of Public Works in partnership with Local Authorities. The Study involved walking and looking at rivers as a whole, from start to finish and twelve areas were identified in County Kildare, with two being considered for particular attention. Social, economic and environmental impacts were considered. The model of mapping is detailed and reflects a protection against 1% flood risk occurring each year.

Flood risk management options can include either screening, hard defences, upstream storage, channel deepening, early warning system or personal protection. A combination of options can be used.

A number of public consultations took place and following feedback a Preferred Option will be confirmed. The O.P.W.'s final report will go before the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government by the 24th June 2016. This will then go on public display again with a final report due for adoption by the end of year. While €100million is available nationally each Local Authority would have to adopt the Plan in order to receive funding.

A number of issues were raised to which Ms O'Brien responded.

- Responsibility for fallen trees
Kildare County Council has a cleaning scheme outside of CFRAM and is developing a 3 year programme. It was noted that there may however be issues with access.
- Problem with aesthetic walls/barriers which interfere with river flows.
Any problem areas identified during cleaning can be investigated by planning section to see if unauthorised and may also be referred to the area offices. Any impacts on farms needs to be highlighted.

- Bog lands
The Barrow Drainage Board (now Kildare County Council) will be aware of any issues when cleaning.
- Impact from sea level rising.
None identified for Kildare at present.
- Integration with the County Development Plan.
Recommendations from the final plan may not be completed in time to be incorporated in the CDP but can be considered in Local Development Plans. The Planning Section is aware of schemes mapping and other issues, including sterilisation. Mapping in the study identifies and reports on what is actually on the ground and is not influenced by zoning. It may be possible to consider the Flooding Map as part of the CDP. Any action taken should not have a negative impact elsewhere.

The Chairman thanked Ms O'Brien for her report.

5. TO RECEIVE AN OVERVIEW ON DRINKING WATER QUALITY (PEHO, HSE)

A presentation was made by Ms Loughman, Principal Environmental Health Officer with the Eastern Health Board in relation to Drinking Water Quality. She provided a report to the Members giving an overview – Legislation, Monitoring and Current Water Quality, Private Supplies, Topical Water Quality Issues and Future Issues. Ms Loughman gave a detailed history of where each supply comes and goes. The 34 water supplies in 1988 have been reduced to 11 through amalgamation. The method of monitoring supplies has now switched to a Volume Based Plan as requested by Irish Water. She emphasised the fact that drinking water in Kildare is of a very good quality

A number of issues were raised to which Ms Loughman responded.

1. Concerns on the use of spraying pesticides when putting in water meters.

The use of sprayed pesticide is not approved and is not part of procedure when installing meters. No previous complaints were received.

2. The use of fluoride / chlorine in our water

The level of fluoride in drinking water in Ireland has been set by the Department of Health and is deemed optimal for protecting the oral health of all. Drinking fluoridated water with the correct amount of fluoride in the water is not harmful to human health.

Chlorine is added to the water to keep it safe.

The Chairman thanked Ms Loughman for her report.

6. TO AGREE WORK PROGRAMME 2016

- Cllr Fintan requested that issues regarding dog fouling be included in the programme.
- Roll out of the Pay by Weight – Household Waste

Cllr Cussen raised the issue of the financial burden on people when the Pay by weight system is introduced on the 1st July 2016. She queried if it was possible for the SPC/Full Council to direct the diversion of monies to assist and queried how it could be done to ensure carers received it.

The Chairman noted the comments. He queried what rules could ensure that one private company was not disadvantaged over another and would operators then operate under guidance set down by Kildare County Council or nationally. He asked Cllr Cussen if she could submit her proposals for a waiver scheme for implementation.

Letter to issue to

1. HSE for details on its medical waste collection scheme
2. Inter department group for names of Local Authorities who operate waivers
3. Then write to specific LA to see what qualification criteria is used and how funded

7. Referral for review

Cllr Young enquired if the Derelict Site Report, circulated at the last meeting also referred to Cllr Joe Nevilles's query and it was confirmed it did. Liam Dunne advised members that the Council would look at a more fundamental initiative to improve dormant buildings and that this matter is also before the Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC

8. Any Other Business

- Deirdre Lane raised a query in relation to Kildare PPN and also Earth Hour She agreed to send in e-mail re queries.
- Cllr Cussen asked for meeting to commence at 2pm. The Chairman agreed to put this item on the next agenda.

This concluded the meeting.