



# KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & WATER STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF MEETING OF 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2016

#### PRESENT:

Councillors: Seán Power, Íde Cussen, Michael Coleman, Murty Aspell,

Sectoral Interests: Deirdre Lane

Officials: Joe Boland, Director of Services  
Liam Dunne, Senior Executive Officer  
Michael Holligan, Senior Engineer  
John McGowan, Senior Engineer  
Carthac deBrí, A/Executive Engineer  
Dara Wyer, Environmental Awareness Officer  
Marie Callaghan, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllrs Fiona McLoughlin Healy, Anthony Larkin, Brendan Young, Fintan Brett and Tom Malone, Mary Glennon and Gerry O'Hagan

#### 1. MINUTES

Minutes of meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016 were agreed with one clarification that the Green Procurement Policy would cover **ALL** products procured by Kildare County Council.

Proposed by Cllr Coleman and seconded by Cllr Aspell.

#### 2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- Residents Association Grants

Cllr Ide Cussen requested that a policy, setting out a clear 5-10 step plan, be agreed for the allocation of the grants. Seán Power understood that information submitted on the application form would be checked for accuracy e.g. number of houses listed / size of green area before being referred to the MD for consideration. Mr Liam Dunne agreed to circulate a report showing the steps involved to ensure that the criteria are more transparent.

- Water Framework Directive

Mr Michael Holligan reported that there are 79 no. monitoring stations in Kildare and the water quality status results indicate that there are 22no. unpolluted, 32no. slightly polluted, 25no. moderately polluted, none seriously polluted. The significant pressures are considered to be Agriculture, Wastewater Treatment Plants, Peatlands, IPPC Licensed Facilities, Domestic Wastewater Treatment, Siltation, Urban Runoff, Pumping Station Overflows and Quarries.

Mr Holligan will circulate the monitoring results to the Committee.

### **3. RURAL WATER OPERATIONS**

#### **TO RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM JOHN MCGOWAN, SENIOR ENGINEER**

Mr John McGowan gave a presentation on Kildare Rural Water outlining details on KCC – Water Services Authority and budget; Group Schemes Sector; Grants & Subsidies; Domestic Well Grants and Private Water Supplies. An information document was circulated on the Rural Water Programme including details and status of the various projects and schemes in operation. Subsidies and grants were also summarised.

The Cathaoirleach thanked John McGowan for his presentation.

A number of issues were discussed:

- Query raised if KCC had developed an initiative to promote local wells - there are no specific grants available for tourism.
- Request was made for representations to be made to remove fluoride from drinking water - it was felt that it would not be appropriate for this committee to do so. It was noted that this is a HSE scheme and it is monitored.
- Query raised if there is potential for hydropower - none in Kildare
- It was confirmed that there are no issues re private wells
- 5 schemes submitted for New Group Water Scheme will be resubmitted next year

### **4. LOCAL AUTHORITIES WATERS AND COMMUNITIES OFFICE**

#### **TO RECEIVE PRESENTATION FROM REPRESENTATIVE OF LAWCO.**

Ms Aoife McGrath, Community Water Officer from the Local Authority Waters and Communities Office presented an overview of the Water Framework Directive.

Some of the issues outlined were :

- Highlighted the main obligations and cycles of the WFD
- Charted significant pressures and trends
- Explained the three tier governance structure
- Appointment of 12no. Community Water Officers nationally
- Promotion of participation between L.A.s, public bodies and community groups
- Listed the Target Groups (including SPCs) for the LAWCO
- examples of projects (River Suir) which could be replicated in Kildare
- Emphasised that public / community participations is a core element

Cathaoirleach Seán Power thanked Ms McGrath for the very informative presentation and ensured her of this Committee's support.

## **5. DERELICT SITES**

Mr Liam Dunne reported on the Update of the Derelict Sites Programme and consideration of relevant policy issues.

The Derelict Sites process was outlined and the typical issues were highlighted. Approximately 400 sites have been reviewed since 2009. Of the 54 entries in the Register 34 have been removed following improvement works (list provided). Mr Dunne stressed the Council's commitment to resolving the issues and detailed the 5 challenges. A task group has been set up to address the issues of dereliction. The Housing Section may be able to identify sites for housing and the Planning Section will be involved in the "Vacant Sites Register". The Council's "Shop Front Scheme" is proving successful. It should be noted that a site cannot be listed on both the Derelict Site and Vacant Site Register.

A discussion took place in regard to the many issues of Ryston swimming pool and also of 33 Main Street, Leixlip.

The Municipal Districts will be kept informed of progress during 2017.

## **6. TO NOTE DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS / TO AGREE WORK PROGRAMME 2017**

The dates for future meetings were noted.

The Work Programme for 2017 was agreed.

It was noted that additional items can be included during the year.

## **7. REUSE AWARENESS AND SKILL SHARING DAY TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM DEIRDRE LANE, SHAMROCK**

A number of events took place in October - Reuse Month as part of a nationwide awareness campaign. Discussions and meetings were held with the stakeholders with views on recycling and reusing. There was cross culture outreach to ensure social inclusion of all communities. The goal was to encourage creativity and business models for reuse, working together with business and community to create reuse opportunities and reduce waste.

Event in Newbridge Library

- Exhibition - Not always pretty in Nature
- Highlighted waste and packaging through art and photography
- Used social media to promote images

#### Event in Whitewater Shopping Centre

- Objective - “*Get into mindset of consumer to create less waste*”
- 200 visitors learning new skills to reduce waste
- Engaging community groups – Mens Shed, Knitters, ICA
- Motivating through live demonstrations – upcycling and bike repair workshop
- Representatives from Newbridge Library and Environmental Awareness Officer
- Information on Energy saving and SEAI grants / art displays
- Samples of reusable and salvaged products
- Garment repair classes / craft making shops
- Discounts for local repair shops
- Coffee shop – all recyclables

#### Event in Royston

- Repair our Community talk
  - ❖ Repair society and engaging in nature
  - ❖ Socially excluded group
  - ❖ Holistic approach
  - ❖ Promoting talking, interacting and support

Cathaoirleach Seán Power congratulated Deirdre Lane on a successful campaign. A discussion took place re Edible forests and social inclusion / Bulb for bulb exchange. Dara Wyer suggested that a similar event be held in each of the Municipal Districts during 2017.

### **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

As there was no further business Chairman Councillor Seán Power thanked all members for their contributions in 2016 and hoped that the Committee would have an effective and sustainable 2017.

**THIS CONCLUDED THE MEETING.**