



## KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

### ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & WATER STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

#### MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018 @ 2:15PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS CHILL DARA

#### PRESENT:

Councillors: Seán Power, Íde Cussen, Fintan Brett, Brendan Young,  
Murty Aspell, Michael Coleman

Sectoral Interests: Tom Malone, Deirdre Lane

Officials: Joe Boland, Director of Services  
Liam Dunne, Senior Executive Officer  
John Tynan, Community Warden Supervisor  
Simon Wallace, Sen Exec Parks Superintendent  
Marie Callaghan, Assistant Staff Officer

Also Present: Cllr Stafford, Dave Beecher, David Wall, Gordon Rennick

Apologies: Cllr Anthony Larkin

#### 1. MINUTES

Minutes of meeting of the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 were agreed.

Proposed by Cllr Brett and seconded by Cllr Young

#### 2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

No matters arising from minutes.

#### 3. WORK PLAN 2018

The work plan circulated was agreed, with the following additions:

- To receive updates on the East & Midlands Regional Climate Change Office
- To encourage participation in The Recycling Ambassador Programme - VOICE Ireland

#### 4. FOOD WASTE - KEY INITIATIVES, POLICIES & RESOURCES

To receive presentation from Odile Le Bolloch, EPA on tackling food waste

Odiles Le Bolloch sent her apologies due to inclement weather.  
Item is to be rescheduled for next meeting.

## 5. NOTICE OF MOTION - CLLR CUSSEN

To consider this Notice of Motion – Referred from full County Council 16/0517

*“That this council ban the use of Glyphosate in public areas within the remit of Kildare County Council.”*

The Chair welcomed Gordon Rennick from the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine. Mr Rennick gave a very in-depth presentation on the use of glyphosates/pesticides :-

- Regulations – legal requirements 1.1.2014
  - how product to be used – not in pure format
  - not for hospital grounds, playing pitches, etc.
  - prioritize non chemical – if chemical lower classification
  - controls on storage, recording, supply and use
- background and list/explanation of pesticides
- 420 active pesticides - 800 removed in recent years
- Control of Farm Hazardous waste
  - legal requirement to triple rinse containers
  - Sustainable Use Directive - Training
  - Inspection of sprayers, disposal, etc
- If a pesticide is deemed necessary then check the safest product – CLASSIFICATION
- Risk assessment to be carried out – use in accordance with label
- Consumer safety – Maximum Residue Levels

Following the presentation a discussion took place where concerns were raised on the following matters:

- its affect on pregnant women, small children, bees, biodiversity
- carcinogenic impact on humans and animals
- why is the approval period only for 5 years – not longer
- the manner in which it is used – over reach of product, the competency of the user
- the location its used in - playgrounds; near water meters
- motivation for its use – cost
- lack of education on its use or alternatives

Simon Wallace confirmed that all Parks staff are qualified to use the product as are contractors. It is used three times a year in the grass cutting contract. He is currently carrying out trials on home sprays/water in Newbridge. A balance has to be found as public expectation is to keep the parks areas tidy.

Gordon Rennick also clarified that

- Glyphosate is not classified as chronic
- No harm to bees
- If used in accordance with labels it can be used safely
- Degrades in Irish soil better than sand

Sean Power proposed that the trials currently in place in Newbridge be used as a pilot scheme. Simon will have results by end of year and will then report on its effectiveness.

The Chair thanked Mr Rennick for a very informative presentation.

## 6. NOTICE OF MOTION – CLLR SORCHA O’NEILL

To consider this Notice of Motion – Referred from full County Council 18/1017

*“That this council writes to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment requesting that this government pushes for a European Union Soils Directive which would safeguard Irish soils (supporting document attached).”*

The Chair welcomed Dave Beecher, Consultant and also David Wall from TEAGASC.

David Wall TEAGASC first presented. He discussed the following topics:

- EU level looked at Directory – enough safeguards
- Water Regulation – purification
- Agriculture – Food production - Biodiversity
- Carbon Storage – Climate change / weather change
- Construction sites / waste facilities
- What soils provide - National Targets – why protect our soils
- Good soils, green grass - Nutrient cycles – 5 functions
- Waste has to be dealt with
- Policy Department Agriculture Food Wise 2025 - Sustainability
- EU Policies – a number of directives already cover this area but none specific
- TEAGASC encourage education / awareness programme for farmers to comply with existing directives

DAVE Beecher, Consultant then presented. He discussed the following topics.

- Safeguarding our soil – food / drinking water / regulating climate
- Soil Food Web – tropical levels
- Cultivating the soil – loss of topsoil
- Windblown Soil Analysis
- Loss of Nutrients – weaker plants – more weeds and pesticides
- Greater Biodiversity increases resilience
- Carbon Navigator
- Managing our soil has biggest impact on soil health
- Soil Health equals Plant / Animal / Human Health

Following a lengthy discussion on both presentations, the SPC, from a policy perspective, generally concluded that a more Bottom Up Approach (as recommended by TEAGASC) was more appropriate than seeking new EU Directives. This would involve further education and awareness to a greater extent. In any event, it was held that there was sufficient statutory powers within existing Directives.

The Chair thanked both Mr Hall and Mr Beecher for their very helpful presentations.

## **7. MOTION FROM DEIRDRE LANE**

*"Should Kildare County Council suspend adding Hydroflurosilicic acid chemicals to drinking water until the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and the Department of Health provide documentary evidence that the chemicals are safe and are not a health risk"*

Deirdre Lane asked if Kildare could be removed from the fluoridisation of water as a pilot programme. She considered this a neurotoxin and was concerned on its affects on mental health – she is looking for guidance.

Mr Boland circulated a reply dated 7/3/18 from Dave Molloy, Assistant National Director Environmental Health on the motion along with the Position Statement from the Irish Expert Body on Fluorides and Health regarding Water Fluoridation in the Republic of Ireland.

He also circulated correspondence he had received on 22/2/18 from Pieter Smit, Irish Water

Mr Boland apologized for the absence of a representative from both the HSE and Irish Water.

## **8. REQUEST FROM DEIRDRE LANE FOR A STANDING ITEM – OBJECTIVES OF LECP**

*"That an update on the relevant water and environmental objectives in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) be scheduled at each Environmental Service & Water SPC"*

Deirdre Lane wanted to see tangible steps in the Local Economic & Community Plan with sustainable goals set for climate change problems

Joe Boland explained that there are two elements to LECP

- Economic element is overseen by Economic Development & Planning SPC
- Social element is being led by Susan Bookle, Co-ordinator LCDC

He requested that any specific objective for special attention to be highlighted.

Cllr Brett confirmed that he had spoken to Susan Bookle who has undertaken to report for next and subsequent meetings.

## **9. REQUEST FROM CLLR SORCHA O'NEILL**

*"That the powers of Litter Wardens to award fines are widened to be more effective. Currently, wardens have no powers to ask for identify or confirm addresses of individuals who have littered."*

Cllr Sorcha O'Neill apologised for inability to attend and is happy for item to proceed.

John Tynan confirmed that Litter Wardens do have the powers to ask for identity and made reference to Part 5 and Section 23 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997.

He clarified that when a person doesn't give a name, he has no power to detain - He can only make contact with Gardai and hope the person stays in area. He also confirmed that in relation to fly tipping the responsibility is on the person to dispose of it properly.

The Chair thanked John Tynan for his attendance.

## **10. NOTICE OF MOTION – CLLR STAFFORD**

To consider this Notice of Motion – Referred from full County Council 16/1117

*“That the council devise and implement a grant scheme to assist with organised community Halloween activities and festivals in order to encourage people away from stock piling of materials for backyard burning and use of illegal fireworks.”*

Cllr Stafford attended the meeting and spoke on the difficulties that arise at Halloween time in relation to back yard burning of all waste and the huge stock piling of all materials. He was interested in investigating how to prevent these bonfires. His motion was supported by the members of the committee who also spoke on the difficulties.

Joe Boland stated that a festival around Halloween takes place in Athy which provides alternative entertainment and so discourages the bonfires. He agreed to report on this for next meeting.

Cllr Stafford welcomed the support and agreed with Joe Boland’s proposal. Funding of the festival to be confirmed.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**THIS CONCLUDED THE MEETING.**