



## KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

### ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & WATER STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

#### MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018 @ 2:15PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS CHILL DARA

#### PRESENT:

Councillors: Seán Power, Íde Cussen, Fintan Brett, Anthony Larkin  
Murty Aspell, Michael Coleman, Fiona McLoughlin-Healy

Sectoral Interests: Deirdre Lane

Officials: Joe Boland, Director of Services  
Brian O’Gorman, Administrative Officer  
Michael Holligan, Senior Engineer  
Edele O’Brien, Executive Engineer  
Susan Bookle, LCDC Co-Ordinator  
Patricia Berry, Athy MD Marketing & Community Officer  
Claire Moran, Senior Staff Officer  
Dara Wyer, Environmental Awareness Officer  
Marie Callaghan, Assistant Staff Officer

Also Present: Cllr Pdraig McEvoy  
Hugh Coughlan, Regional Co-Ordinator, EMRWO  
Odile Le Bolloch, Environmental Protection Agency  
Travis O’Doherty, Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly

Apologies: Cllr Brendan Young, Tom Malone

### 1. MINUTES

Minutes of meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were agreed.

Proposed by Cllr Brett and seconded by Cllr Aspell

### 2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

#### RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

Michael Holligan, Senior Engineer updated the committee on the second River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 which was published on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

The main issues were to identify an approach to protect and restore water quality; the six main Areas of Action (AFA) in the county (Morrell, Lyreen/Clonshanbo, Blackwater, Athy Stream, Graney/Lerr, Barrow. Initial meetings between Kildare County Council and LAWSAT are planned.

## **ADOPTION OF THE FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS**

Edele O'Brien, Executive Engineer gave an updated presentation on CFRAM - Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management. The Plan was launched by the Minister and will be presented to full council later this month.

County Kildare has been fully assessed.

Five areas were identified as very low risk – no measures proposed

Three areas will require OPW minor works scheme

Two areas will require hard defences to protect 781 properties

Kildare County Council will be engaging with the OPW on the projects and it will be funded by the Department. Some of the plan measures proposed are for hard defences; improvement of channel conveyance; trash screen upgrades. Work has already commenced on Morrell. Consultants will shortly be appointed for Hazelhatch/Ardclough Road. Edele clarified that a hard defence is not required for Leixlip/Confey.

## **UPDATE ON THE OBJECTIVES OF LOCAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY PLAN**

Susan Bookle, LCDC Co-Ordinator circulated a report on the Plan in relation to Goal 11 – environmental Quality and also Goal 12 A Sustainable County.

Biodiversity week, community awareness and the Green Schools were items discussed.

The Chair thanked the speakers for keeping the Committee informed.

## **3. ADDRESSING FOOD WASTE - KEY INITIATIVES, POLICIES & RESOURCES**

Odile Le Bolloch, EPA gave a presentation on tackling food waste

Ireland generates over 1 million tonnes of food waste every year between factories, distributors and consumers (excluding agriculture). Wasting food also wastes water, energy and resources used to grow, pack and transport it.

The EPA runs a Stop Food Waste Programme which includes activities in Community Based Training, Direct Engagement, Communication and Business Support.

- Community Based Training – Stop Food Waste Challenges, Master Composer Course, One-Off events, work with Tidy Towns, Local Authorities.
- Direct Engagement – interacting with wider public / local groups – seminars, events, group supports. Forum on food Waste
- Communication – TV Programmes, A-Z food campaign, newspapers, ads, online, campaigns, events
- Supporting Business – online support, surveys – data processing, Food Waste Charter, Retail Action Group
- UN Sustainable Development Goal 12.3 – meeting targets - halve food waste at retail and consumer levels, Government commitment
- Food Waste Charter – industry commitment to reduce food waste in supply chain
- Consumers – behavioural changes, working with others, awareness campaign, €700 worth wasted by a household per annum

The following topics were then discussed by the Committee:

- breakdown on what is in bins, and how segregation works
- cut down on green gas waste
- linkage to Public Participation Network
- Bio-methane – waste management – not prevention
- Collaboration on community garden
- Behavioral change – meal planning- shop for 5 days not 7, use leftovers
- Most of the main supermarket chains are participating in programme
- Packaging issues
- Average cost of food waste per household is €700 pa
- Better advertising – eg Tidy Town Course

The Chair thanked Ms Le Bolloch for her presentation and contributions to the meeting.

#### **4. BYELAWS ON WASTE PRESENTATION.**

Hugh Coughlan, Regional Co-Ordinator, Eastern Midlands Regional Waste Office gave a presentation on the Revised Waste Presentation Bye-Laws. Any existing bye-laws are out of date and these new bye-laws will meet EU and national waste targets. The main purposes are to tackle illegal dumping and to encourage greater participation in Waste Collection Services - 77% of households use a kerbside collection while others bin share or use civic amenities. Mr Coughlan will be presenting to SPCs and it is hoped that the public consultations will begin during the summer months.

While the EMRWO has prepared the Bye-law template and guidance documents it will be the responsibility of each Local Authority to adopt and enforce. Mr Coughlan outlined the background legislation and the different steps of the process. He acknowledged that while very real constraints apply Local Authorities should produce bye-laws that are (a) useful, (b) workable, (c) enforceable and (d) politically acceptable. The bye-laws can assist as part of an education/awareness initiative in ensuring behavioral change in how people manage waste.

He then proceeded to explain the thirteen bye-laws set out in the template, including management of containers, collection times, Segregation, multi-user blocks, non-kerbside collection and receipts, prohibitive waste, fines, etc.

A discussion then followed on awareness and engaging citizens and retailers, encouraging zero waste and the Civic Amenity Site in north of county

The Chair thanked Mr Coughlan for his presentation and contributions to the meeting.

## **5. NOTICE OF MOTION - CLLRS KEATLEY & McEVOY**

Referred from full County Council 19/0318

“That the council investigate signing up to the EU Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy alongside other local authorities in the Eastern and Midlands Region.”

Travis O’Doherty, Research & Policy Officer at the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly gave a presentation on the Covenant of Mayors for climate and Energy. The EMRA is one of three regional bodies working on securing funding from the EU. He outlined the International and EU Policies – UN SDGs, Paris Agreement, 2030 targets, and also highlighted national policy. Kildare County Council is the lead authority with the Eastern & Midlands Regional Climate Change Office and will also have to prepare its own local adaptation strategy. Eleven Irish Local Authorities / Energy Agencies have already signed up.

Joining up is a simple process of making a declaration however there are real commitments which will be challenging:

- to meet the targets in the 2030 Climate & Energy framework.
- to submit a Sustainable Energy & Climate Action Plan
- to adopt an integrated approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation
- to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 40%

There are many opportunities in joining the Covenant of Mayors:-

- can be used as a stepping stone to other funding
- networking with other EU cities – sharing solutions and learning best practices
- Influence policy
- building up EU project expertise in Kildare
- corporate social responsibility
- working with national climate change actions

The following topics were then discussed by the Committee:

- Joe Boland confirmed that it was resolved at full council meeting 26/3/18 that the Council would sign up to the EU Covenant of Mayors.
- Request to liaise with Regional Assembly
- Importance to reduce carbon – limited data on national fleet
- Agree with signing up – expertise support
- Query re Kildare joining an Energy Agency – decision later this year
- Request to liaise with the PPN which supports this signing
- Service Level Agreement was signed – Regional
- Seminar held with the 17 Local Authorities – work programme agreed
- Claire Moran in the Regional Office to research EU Funding

The Chair thanked Mr O'Dohery for his presentation and contributions to the meeting.

## **6. CONSIDERATION OF HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL GRANT**

Patricia Berry, Athy MD Marketing & Community Officer, gave a presentation and details on the Athy Festival held at Halloween. There was a lot of preparation work and an awareness campaign on all the negative effects of bonfires. There was great community, school and business participation and also Garda Siochana involvement. Skips were provided in the lead up removing any items stored and there were no bonfires at all in 2017.

The following topics were then discussed by the Committee:

- Not feasible in all MD areas as some already have a community festival
- Team of dedicated staff required in other areas – no co-ordinator available
- Environment Section would endeavour to support any proposals submitted
- Suggestion of having one organised community bonfire in an area

- Community Section would be asked if a pilot programme could be developed using Athy as a model
- Patricia Berry would be available for advice
- National Reuse Month Initiative- October

The Chair thanked Ms Berry for her presentation and contributions to the meeting.

## **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Deirdre Lane enquired if a decision had been made in relation to the proposed Chinese Lantern Show at Punchestown. Joe Boland confirmed that no application for an event licence had been received, It was unclear if a proposed ban on this type of event by Kildare County Council would have any legal standing. Joe Boland agreed to investigate as there were concerns for the Fire Services, Environment Section and Veterinary Services

**THIS CONCLUDED THE MEETING.**