



KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & WATER STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 5TH DECEMBER 2018
@ 2:15PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS CHILL DARA**

PRESENT:

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

Sectoral Interests: Tom Malone, Emer Conway

Officials: Joe Boland, Director of Services
Liam Dunne, SEO, Environment
Brian O’Gorman, AO, Environment
Frank Mitchell, Dog Warden,
Cora Dempsey, ASO, Environment
Martin Dowling, EP, Climate Action Regional Office
Dara Wyer, Environmental Awareness Officer
Marie Callaghan, ASO, Environment

Also Present: Aiden Corcoran, ISPCA

Apologies: Padraic O’Luanaigh

1. MINUTES

Minutes of meeting of the 10th October 2018 were agreed.

Proposed by Tom Malone and seconded by Cllr Brendan Young.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

3. TIDY TOWNS (UPDATE ON 2018 ACTIVITIES)

Cora Dempsey made a presentation on the Tidy Towns Update 2018. Thirty eight towns and villages competed nationally and there were ten medal winners. There were five gold for Straffan, Naas, Maynooth, Leixlip and Kill; three silver for Ballymore Eustace, Celbridge and Newbridge; and two bronze medals for Clane and Rathangan. The KCC and GAA Partnership continued in 2018 with radio interviews with Johnny Doyle, new signage and a fun day in Straffan. €76,000 will be made available to Tidy Towns Committees in 2019.

The following issues were noted

- Naas, Maynooth, Ballymore Eustace and Milltown also won awards.
- 26% of Kildare's entries won medals
- A number of networking meetings were held over the year
- KCC presented Merit Awards to 17 dedicated individuals
- Kildare Town was placed 2nd overall in the 2017 IBAL (Irish Business Against Litter) league
- Liffey Linear Park received a Green Flag.
- Newbridge was awarded the Pollinator Project Award for Town Parks
- Further networking meeting planned for 2019.

The Committee raised the following topics

- Clear Air award – awareness campaign
- Gavin Hart – KCC workshops and Sustainable Energy Communities
- Allocation of the €76,000
- Christmas tree lights – energy awareness

4. ISPCA – KILDARE DOG WARDEN SERVICES

Aiden Corcoran, Supervisor with the ISPCA Dog Warden Services and Frank Mitchell Kildare Dog Warden made a presentation to the Committee, firstly outlining details of staffing, location, times and contact details of the service.

The main legislation is the Control of dogs Act 1986 and the main functions are

1. Licensing and control of dogs
2. Protection of livestock from worrying by dogs
3. Control of stray and unwanted dogs

Other duties are carried out under the following legislation:

- Guard Dog Regulations
- Dog Breeding Establishments
- Microchipping of dogs

The Role of the Dog Warden includes patrolling the county, investigating complaints, seizing stray dogs, licence checks, issuing of notices and court appearances, inspection of dog kennels and educational talks to schools. S.16 of the CoD Act limits the power of the Dog Warden by preventing access into dwellings.

The current Dog Shelter will be modified to include eight extra kennels and an exercise area. It houses any surrendered or seized dogs which must be held for 5 days. Dogs can be held longer if required for court reasons. These are then euthanized (10%), reclaimed or rehomed (89%). If a dog is suitable for rehoming then the Warden works with six approved rescue organisations.

A discussion took place on the following topics

- Farmers' problems with dogs worrying sheep
- Rehoming of dogs - advertised on ISPCA website
- Puppy farms - new guidelines will be introduced in 2019.
- Microchipping / dog population

5. EU COVENANT OF MAYORS

Martin Dowling from the Climate Action Regional Office - Eastern & Midlands Region gave a briefing on the Covenant of Mayors which was launched in 2008 and accepts that Climate change is the biggest global change of our times. Kildare County Council made a decision in 2018 to sign up to the Covenant of Mayors. There are 7,755 signatories, representing 250 million citizens, predominantly EU.

Kildare is required to (1) identify prepare a base line emission inventory (2) submit a Sustainable Energy Action Plan and then (3) submit progress reports every 2 years. It is not just for Council facilities but also to represent a cross section of the county. The main issues are (a) reduction of CO² gases by 40% by 2030 and (b) increase resilience to the impact of climate change.

The following items were discussed:

- Planning regulations in relation to reduction of greenhouse gases
- Opportunity to have input when the County Development Plan and Area Plans go to public consultation
- The draft Region Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) is currently on public display and open for contributions to the Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly This sets out how this region will develop in regard to agriculture, transport, etc.
- Request for CARO to look at this document and advise before CDP review
- Planning regulations are set out a National level, with energy guidelines
- KCC to take a lead role - Kildare Lead Authority for CARO
- Planning criteria / policy in relation to wind / solar farms – case by case basis
- Is target of 40% by 2030 adequate – target can be exceeded
- Are there new EU Regulations for private/public buildings re CO² emissions
- Joe Boland agreed to bring the Committees concerns to the attention of the Planning Section.
- Martin Dowling advised the Committee that they can contact him
- Signing of Covenant set for in January 2019.

6. ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS OFFICER'S REPORT

Dara Wyer, Environment Awareness Officer made a presentation on 2018 Projects.

- National Spring Clean – 150 projects during the month
- Lily White Clean Up – 28 projects on the day
- Kildare Green Kilometre – 11 kilometres submitted
- Anti Dumping Initiative – 5 projects – grants of €40,000
- Any Bag Any Bin Campaign - stencilling completed and Audio warning devices installed on a temporary basis
- Dual Street Bins provided in 5 towns
- Improved waste management in Áras Chill Dara – sorting bins
- Ongoing maintenance at recycling banks – extra signage, CCTV
- Day initiatives – Household Hazardous Collection / Mattress Amnesty
- Information talks on the three bin systems
- Reuse Month in October concentrating on Food Waste Prevention
- Pilot Reuse project for IT equipment
- Grants – LA21 Environmental partnership fund and Anti Litter Anti Graffiti Grant

7. DRAFT WASTE BYE-LAWS

Liam Dunne, Senior Executive Officer circulated a report on the Draft Waste Management (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye Laws 2018 which were on public consultation from the 5th October 2018 to 21st November 2018. The four submissions received and the resulting actions were detailed in the report.

It was AGREED that the report and draft Bye-Laws be presented to the next full Council meeting for consideration.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A request was received from Cllr Pádraig McEvoy to consider incorporate the title "Climate Change" in the name of the Environmental Services & Water SPC to help mainstream the issues relating to Climate Change.

The members agreed with the suggestion and letter to issue to Corporate Services to investigate if the SPC name could be amended.

THIS CONCLUDED THE MEETING.