

# Water Services and Environment SPC

## Minutes of Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 via MS Teams

### In attendance :

#### Elected Members :

Cllr. Suzanne Doyle, (Chair)  
Cllr. Íde Cussen  
Cllr. Brendan Wyse  
Cllr. Anne Breen  
Cllr. Brian Dooley  
Cllr. Vanessa Liston

#### Sectoral Interests:

Emer Conway  
Tom O'Connor

#### KCC Staff :

Joe Boland, Director of Services  
Colm Flynn, A/Senior Engineer  
Ken Kavanagh, Senior Executive Officer, Environment  
Máiréad Hunt, Senior Executive Officer, Planning/Public Realm Team  
Annie Gough, Clerical Officer, Public Realm Team  
Aoife O'Malley, Administrative Officer, Environment

**Apologies :** Evan Arkwright, Pádraig Ó Luanaigh.

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The Chair commenced the meeting by proposing to move to in-person for the December meeting, which was agreed.

The minutes of the meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021, already circulated, were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Anne Breen, seconded by Cllr. Brendan Wyse.

### **To consider design approaches to public markets**

A presentation on the development of Kildare outdoor markets was made by Annie Gough, Public Realm Team which encompassed a number of models drawn from examples countrywide. A general discussion ensued which encompassed the following aspects : preferred model, branding, fees, infrastructure, waste management, types of stall, etc.

A general discussion took place which focused on the following:-

- Overseeing the future regulation of such markets

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- Possible role of Community Wardens (though noted that these are not currently authorized)
- Future funding aspects which would need to be fully costed
- Possible inclusion of farmers' markets in any future plans/policies
- As to which department should lead !

**Action:** From a policy perspective, it was agreed that a new market policy should be developed. It was noted that the presentation from Ms.Gough was very helpful and would be useful in terms of informing any such policy.

### **To note progress on bin audit**

A presentation on street litter bins was made by Ken Kavanagh, SEO, outlining the current arrangements as well as the survey currently underway of all bins in the county.

A further report on the audit of street bins will be made to the next SPC meeting in December.

A general discussion took place which focused on the following :-

- standard of current presentation
- operational efficiency
- priorities for replacement
- ongoing maintenance
- policy and operational coherence

Reference was also made to the Dublin City Council pilot relating to segregated bins to facilitate recycling.

It was noted that the details relating to the outcome of the survey would be available for the December meeting. It was also noted that Hugh Coughlan, Regional lead would also participate to outline DCC's experience with the segregated (yellow bin) pilot.

**Action :** Await outcome of audit and discuss further at December SPC meeting.

### **To review current Air Quality Monitoring policies**

A presentation on Air Quality Monitoring was made by Colm Flynn, A/Senior Engineer. This focused, in particular, on the following sources of adverse quality; traffic and home heating. Reference was made to the network of monitoring stations in the county. It was emphasized that air quality was a significant national priority on the part of the EPA.

A general discussion ensued which focused on the following :

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- Solvents Regulations 2012
- Noise monitoring
- Odour complaints
- Wind energy guidelines
- The need for more localized data
- Deco Paint Regulations (spray painting cars)
- Fossil fuels
- Role of agricultural community (who wanted to be more proactive) (GAP regulations)
- Role of various agencies (EPA, HSE)
- Involving local community (local collaboration)
- Link with spatial planning

**Action:** The presentation was noted and it was agreed that the foregoing aspects would be taken into account in the context of future reviews.

### **To receive and overview on policies relating to Derelict Sites**

A presentation was delivered by Colm Flynn, A/Senior Engineer which focused on the following aspects :

- main reasons for dereliction
- criteria / definition
- current 'standard operations procedures' (SOPs)
- inspection regime
- powers available (inc. levy and CPO)
- ongoing challenges

Again, a general discussion ensued wherein the following comments were made :

- statutory powers should be strengthened
- issues relating to protected structures (consult with Conservation Officer)
- challenges in identifying / dealing with owners
- recoupment of costs
- possible synergies with our housing department
- some successes noted

**Action:** It was agreed that the views/concerns of the SPC could be conveyed to the DHLGH who would, in particular, be encouraged to strengthen the statutory process as well as strengthening guidance in this area.

### **Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, was agreed.

Meeting then concluded.