

Water Services and Environment SPC

Minutes of Meeting held on 1st December 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, Evan Arkwright, Padraic Ó'Lunaigh

KCC Staff :

Joe Boland, Director of Services

Colm Flynn, Ken Kavanagh, Aoife O'Malley, Maeve Lonergan, (all Environment
Dept)

The Chair commenced the meeting by referring to the proposal at the previous meeting to move to in-person for the December meeting, which wasn't now possible due to the rise in covid cases.

1. The minutes of the meeting of 8th September 2021 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Anne Breen, seconded by Cllr. Íde Cussen.
2. There were no matters arising from the Minutes

3. To receive update from Eastern Midlands Regional Waste Management Office

A presentation by Hugh Coughlan, Regional Co-Ordinator, E.M.R.W.O. gave an overview of the Regional Waste Management Office and addressed the following topics

- Regional office activities
- The national waste management plan for a circular economy
 - Context / core issues
- National waste enforcement priorities

- Tackling significant waste activity
- Construction and demolition waste
- Household and commercial waste collection
- Producer responsibility initiatives
- Waste prevention
 - Awareness campaigns and projects
 - Pilot food waste separation roadshow

Following the presentation, a general Q&A discussion ensued which encompassed the following aspects :

- The need for a waste facility in the north of the county
- customers with no bin or limited bin service
- usage of CCTV and GDPR implications
- deposit return schemes
- legal framework for enforcement;

Members were advised that it was planned that waste operators would ensure that all houses receive the full range of bin collection service.

Members raised the issue of a civic amenity site for the North of the county and were advised that there was no funding for such a project.

Mr. Coughlan also gave an update on Dublin City Council's "Yellow Bin" campaign, and its objectives to

- recycle empty plastic bottles and cans
- raise awareness of how to recycle and its importance
- encourage people to change their behaviours while out and about

The campaign launched in October 2020 featured 25 brightly coloured bins located in the Grafton St and Henry St shopping areas. At the same time, the country went into Level 5 covid restrictions and has remained under varying levels of restrictions since then. Subsequently, a total of 65 bins were introduced gradually on the streets of Dublin with a general positive response from the public.

Item 4. Report on Survey of Street Litter Bins

Ken Kavanagh, Environment, gave a report on the Litter Bin survey carried out by Environment staff. The purpose of this survey was to identify and quantify the physical bin infrastructure in the county.

It was acknowledged that there are also bins provided by shops and businesses which they themselves service, along with some bins which are looked after by local tidy towns groups.

The physical survey took place during Sept 2021 and identified a total of 725 across the county with the breakdown by Municipal District as follows:-

Athy – 71

Celbridge Leixlip – 103

Clane Maynooth – 147

Kildare Newbridge – 162

Naas – 242

A further breakdown by town /village within each MD was provided to the meeting.

5. Proposed Protocol on the provision of new street Litter Bins

Currently, the council has a collection of bins in a range of sizes, colours, and condition with a number potentially in the wrong places

Ken Kavanagh gave an overview on the draft protocol for installation of new street litter bins.

The basic requirement for these guidelines is to provide consistency in litter bin placement with appropriate coverage in all parts of the county, and aims to ensure

- Bins are fit for purpose
- Bins are in the right locations
- Criteria are in place for assessing litter bin requests
- Bins are of a consistent standard

There is a need to ensure most effective use of the available budget and the members were reminded that there is a finite capacity when it comes to servicing bins.

The SPC members generally welcomed the guidelines and asked for more time to consider the matters raised in the guidelines. The Chair suggested that the members

come back to the next SPC meeting with their recommendations and make a decision on the proposed protocol at that meeting.

6. Presentation on proposed KCC “Presentation of Waste” Campaign

Colm Flynn, A/S.E. gave an overview on the planned campaign with regard to waste enforcement, and focused on the following areas:-

- Waste presentation – governing legislation
- Issues to be tackled
 - Unauthorised waste collectors
 - Segregation of waste
 - Provision of brown bins
- Tackling Significant illegal waste activity
 - Media campaign
 - Requests for information
 - Inspections
 - Enforcement
- Multi – Agency Sites of Interest
- Construction and Demolition Activity
- End of Life Vehicles
- Civic Amenities (bring centres - Christmas Waste Activities)

There was a broad welcome from the meeting for the programme, with members stating that they looked forward to the legislation being enforced.

7 – Update on River Basin Management Plan Consultation process

Colm Flynn, A/S.E. gave a presentation on Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027, which is a National Plan that aims to protect and restore good water quality in Ireland’s rivers, lakes, estuaries, groundwater and coastal waters.

The presentation outlined

- Context of the river basin management plan
- Condition of our waters, nationally and locally
- Pressures on water quality

- Main themes in the plan
 - National ambition to halt decline in water quality
 - Integrated catchment planning
 - Greater coordination between state agencies
- Overview of measures proposed
 - Each LA to put in place a county level plan
 - A review of LA resources
 - DHLGH to finalise new water and planning guidance
 - Dept to develop a Rural Waster Services Strategic Plan for the period 2025-2050
- Submission process

Submissions on the River Basin Management Plan can be made directly to the Dept. of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, or the LAWPRO Virtual Consultation room at LAWaters.ie.

The members were encouraged to make submissions either individually or collectively

8. 2022 Calendar of Meetings

The schedule for 2022 would be confirmed at the next SPC meeting on 9th February 2022.
