

Water Services and Environment SPC

Minutes of Meeting held on 9th February 2022 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, Cllr. Michael Coleman

Sectoral Interests:

Emer Conway, Tom O'Connor, Padraic Ó'Luanaigh

An Garda Síochána

Eamonn Malone, Jane Ryan, Jim Molloy

KCC Staff :

Joe Boland, Director of Services

Colm Flynn, Ken Kavanagh, Aoife O'Malley, Dara Wyer, Peter Mahoney, Ken Darcy
(Environment Section)

Pamela Pender, Cyril Buggie (Transportation)

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1. The minutes of the meeting of 1st December 2021 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Íde Cussen seconded by Cllr. Anne Breen.
 2. There were no matters arising from the minutes
 3. Presentations on the Council's environmental enforcement policies and protocols were given by Colm Flynn / Peter Mahoney, Environment Dept
(The Chair welcomed An Garda Síochána representatives, who joined the meeting for this item)
Colm Flynn, Acting S.E., Environment, gave a presentation on Kildare County Council's Waste Enforcement Policy, outlining the key areas being targeted for 2022 to tackle illegal waste activities, including C& D waste, ELV and metal

wastes, Household and Commercial Waste, by inspections, multi-agency checkpoints, media campaigns and enforcement.

Peter Mahoney, Community Warden, gave a presentation on illegal dumping sites in the county, showing slides of some of the worst dumping incidents in 2021, outlining the difficulties in prosecuting offenders due to lack of evidence and the costs involved in cleaning up these incidents.

Following the presentation, members discussed progress on the use of CCTV to enable prosecutions, the frustration of local communities at the repeated dumping in their areas, that the costs of clean-up operations were diverting funding from other community initiatives and the need for solid evidence to convict offenders. An Garda Siochana representatives assured the meeting of their co-operation and support in tackling the issues.

The Chair thanked An Garda Siochana representatives for their attendance. An Garda Siochana representatives then left the meeting following this item.

4. To consider SPC work programme for 2022/2023

The draft work programme was noted and agreed. In relation to a query on biodiversity, the members were advised that the council has prepared a county biodiversity plan (ref. B.Loughlin).

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

Ken Kavanagh gave a further 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

He reiterated the 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. Cllr Doyle queried the equitable distribution of bins throughout the county, the need to relocate bins to more populated areas and noted an inequity of bin distribution across the county. Ken Kavanagh explained that the purpose of the bin survey was to identify and quantify the existing infrastructure in the county. The aim of the draft protocol was to develop a consistent approach across all MD's to provision of street litter bins. With regard to the Chair's observations around the bin distribution countywide, the Director of Services intimated that this may be linked to the annual budget allocation for each of the respective Municipal Districts which was a matter for the members to consider at budget time. Mr. Boland also suggested that it may be challenging to reach a consensus among the members on re-apportioning budgets among the MDs.

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. To consider a Notice of Motion referred to SPC by Celbridge-Leixlip Municipal District

Cllr M. Coleman - That this municipal district be a pilot for the county in carrying out a survey of the number of dogs in the municipal district.

Councillor Michael Coleman joined the meeting to speak on his referred motion from Celbridge Leixlip MD regarding the number of dogs in the county and the need to work on traceability of dog ownership, possibly including the use of microchipping.

Ken Kavanagh reiterated the report made previously to the Celbridge Leixlip MD that the council does not have the means or resources to carry out a survey of all dogs, in an MD or countywide. Following a brief discussion, the members queried the benefits of such a survey and agreed that no further action was required.

7. The date of the next meeting was scheduled for Wed 11th May 2022 at 2.30pm, venue TBC.

Joe Boland,
Director of Services.
