



KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & WATER STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 8TH MARCH 2017 @ 2:15PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS CHILL DARA

PRESENT:

- Councillors: Seán Power, Íde Cussen, Brendan Young, Michael Coleman, Fiona McLoughlin Healy, Murty Aspell,
- Sectoral Interests: Deirdre Lane
- Officials: Joe Boland, Director of Services
Liam Dunne, Senior Executive Officer
Michael Holligan, Senior Engineer
Kevin Motherway, Senior Executive Scientist
Enda Hoey, Senior Executive Scientist
Marie Callaghan, Assistant Staff Officer
- Also in Attendance: Robbie Doyle, Environmental Health Officer, H.S.E.
Donnachadh O'Brien, Consultant Engineer
- Apologies: Cllr Anthony Larkin, Brendan, Cllr Fintan Brett and Tom Malone, Mary Glennon

1. MINUTES

Minutes of meeting of the 7th December 2016 were agreed.

Proposed by Cllr Coleman and seconded by Cllr Young.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- Residents Association Grants

Cllr Ide Cussen requested clarification in regard to the new application form. It was confirmed that groups need to complete all sections of the form to the best of their ability.

- 33 Main Street, Leixlip

It was confirmed that the Planning Department is currently assessing the site to see if it is an unauthorised development. If not, then it will be entered on the Derelict Sites Register. The Municipal District will be kept updated.

3. PRESENTATION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION WORKSHOP HELD ON THE 9TH DECEMBER 2017

Kevin Motherway, Senior Executive Scientist and Enda Hoey, Senior Executive Scientist made a presentation on the Climate Change Adaptation workshop which was held in the Clanard Hotel, Athy on the 9th December 2016. The “Think In” had fifteen people in attendance, including staff, councillors and a representative from the environmental sector. Dr Barry O’Dwyer MaREI/UCC also participated on the day.

They explained Climate Adaptation and the timelines involved nationally. They emphasised the importance of embedding climate adaptation into KCC strategic plans and day to day operations. They elaborated on the six step planning process and the Workshop commenced with STEP 1 – Forming an Adaptation Team & Preparing the Ground. There was a positive response by participants and the task was clearly defined as Adaptation not mitigation. The County Development Plan is being used a roadmap for themes and two of these were covered in detail on the day.

For Step 2 – Assessing the current Adaptation Baseline. The workshop participants were split into two groups and they contributed feedback on Water and Housing. Water - historical impacts were acknowledged and then the main areas for concern in the future were identified, e.g. flood frequency, road closures, invasive species and tillage yields. The results for Housing took a map based approach and covered a variety of topics e.g. flooding, financial costs, storm damage and impact on the different types of accommodation. Directives and legislations were a common issue for both areas.

Following the workshop the next actions are to ensure Senior Management buy-in and to benchmark progress against Climate Ireland worksheets. The option of partnering with another Local Authority could be investigated. It is proposed to hold further workshops with appropriate stakeholders to cover the other themes and to keep elected members informed.

Cllr Seán Power thanked Kevin and Enda for the presentation.

Deirdre Lane informed the Committee that she had recently attended a Sustainability event where topics of Fuel poverty, deep retrofit, engaging the public through PPN etc. were discussed. (She will distribute information from the day). Joe Boland agreed the importance of engaging with stakeholders and will consider holding a separate workshop.

Brendan Young raised issues of Heat Exchange, mechanical ventilation, transportation, emissions, public transport, passive houses, etc. He felt that Mitigation should also be considered along with Adaption. Kevin Motherway underlined that climate change is happening and KCC needs to identify how it will *adapt*. With adaption plans in place Kildare could be marketed as climate resilient

Joe Boland stressed that KCC is still at strategic level and currently working at Steps 1 and 2 and progressing to Step 3. The Climate Action Team will identify risks of climate change to the various services provided by KCC.

4. AIR POLLUTION ISSUES - PRESENTATION

Mr Robbie Doyle, E.H.O. Health Service Executive gave a presentation on County Kildare Low Smoke Zones Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations 2012 – 2015

Naas, Sallins, Newbridge, Maynooth, Celbridge and Leixlip are all smoky coal ban specified areas. A prohibition on the burning of bituminous or smoky coal was introduced in 2012 to complement the existing ban on the marketing, sale and distribution. The occupier of any private dwelling located within a specified area shall NOT BURN bituminous coal and there are restrictions on the Sale of Bituminous Coal outside Specified Areas. It is legal to sell peat, wood and Smokeless fuel. Possible breaches of Section 6 are often received from the public. The initial response will be an information exercise to ensure the occupier of the premises is fully aware of their obligations. There are limits on the local authorities in terms of powers of entry to private dwellings.

The Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2015 introduced Fixed Payment Notices. A penalty of €250 can issue for not having a record. A fine of €1000 can issue for marketing, selling or distributing smoky coal inside ban area. Mr Doyle displayed an Advisory letter which the HSE issue. It is a very informative letter in regard to legislation, types of permitted fuel, health and environmental issues. He then outlined some of the proposed Public Information Campaign – Local Press & Radio; On-Line Information; Retailer & Consumer Leaflets; SOS help line. The HSE try to be proactive and limit the opportunities of illegal activities along with the promotion of smokeless fuel. The EPA manages the national ambient air quality network.

Cllr Seán Power thanked Robbie Doyle for the presentation.

A number of issues were discussed:-

- Enforcement

Mr Doyle explained that there was a delay in proceedings, as forms needed to be bi-lingual, but that warning letters have now issued. These are being adhered to and no cases have proceeded to court yet.

Mr Doyle to liaise with Mr Liam Dunne re Enforcement Awareness Campaign for September / October 2017.

- Behavioural change – information leaflets were circulated.
- Stoves – while these still use fossil fuel consideration has to be given to affordability / fuel poverty. Building regulations govern the way stoves are installed to prevent nuisance.
- Air pollution – monitoring of diesel emissions in Dublin.

5. PROPOSED CIVIC AMENITY FACILITY FOR NORTH-EAST KILDARE.

Donnachadh O'Brien, Consultant Engineer gave an updated progress report on the Civic Amenity Centre to serve north of county - Feasibility Stage Presentation.

Site selection is considered to be good given its proximity to Celbridge Interchange/M4 and as there are no residential developments nearby. It has local access – R449 and is adjacent to KCC roads compound. The site has a flat topography and is also serviceable. It's catchment area is Maynooth, Celbridge, Leixlip, Kilcock and also Lucan – catering for a population of 80,000 – 100,000.

Mr O'Brien explained the details of the site layouts, showing road entrance and one-way system, pay station, weighbridge, chargeable and non chargeable waste areas, compactor units. The proposed site is 1.47ha with room to expand. It is designed for a 25/30 year lifespan. It will NOT cater for commercial waste.

There were preliminary discussions with KCC Road Department and some key Design Considerations were motorway setback, HGV manoeuvres, sight lines, speed limit and to maintain access to existing depot.

Next steps

- *Comments on Preliminary Site Layout and Design*
- *Further liaising with KCC Roads / Environment / Planning Departments*
- *Preparation of Budget Estimate based on Feasibility Stage Design*
- *EPA Licencing*
- *Part 8 Planning & Detailed Design*
- *Contractor Procurement, Award & Construction*

Cllr Seán Power thanked Donnachadh O'Brien for the presentation.

The following issues were discussed:-

- Proposed charges, particularly for green waste and recyclables – this is a policy issue and could be considered by the local MD at Part 8 stage
- Types of recyclable facilities to be provided – items for resale
- Wormery – available room on site and it's feasibility
- Room for further expansion
- Education - school tours could be encouraged.
- Will the facility be run by KCC
- Promote business from Dublin
- It was clarified that this facility would be considered as part of the Local Area Plan and County Development Plan.
- Departmental Funding of 75% available, balance from KCC
- EPA licence required
- Part 8 would go before the Celbridge/Leixlip MD – probable timescale of one year
- Introduction of a strategy to actually reduce waste at source
- Illegal dumping and difficulties associated with issuing fines

6. WORK PROGRAMME 2017

A summary of the SPC THINK IN on the 27th February 2017 was circulated.

Clarification of the Building Directives was sought and Joe Boland agreed to ask a representative from Housing to attend a SPC meeting to give details on retrofitting and insulation programmes.

It was agreed that each Committee Member would prioritise their Top Issues on the Work Plan with a view to arranging information sessions on the top items.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

THIS CONCLUDED THE MEETING.