



## KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

### ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & WATER STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

#### MINUTES OF MEETING OF 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 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, Anthony Larkin

Sectoral Interests: Deirdre Lane  
Tom Malone

Officials: Joe Boland, Director of Services  
Liam Dunne, Senior Executive Officer  
Dara Wyr, Environmental Awareness Officer  
Yvonne Murray,  
Brian O’Gorman  
Marie Callaghan, Assistant Staff Officer

Also in Attendance: Nuala Madigan, Hugh Coughlan, Emma Cassin

Apologies: Cllr Mark Stafford and Cllr Mark Lynch

#### 1. MINUTES

Minutes of meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 were agreed.

Proposed by Cllr Power and seconded by Cllr Cussen.

#### 2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- 33 Main Street, Leixlip

Liam Dunne stated that the building had been examined and is not considered dangerous or derelict. It is deemed to be vacant and its condition will be monitored.

### **3. PRESENTATION – BROWN IS THE NEW BLACK – STOP FOOD WASTE** **To receive presentation from Nuala Madigan, Education Officer of the Irish Peatland Conservation Council.**

Nuala Madigan of the IPCC, is based in Lullymore, Co Kildare and her presentation is “*An Introduction to the Stop Food Waste Initiative of the EPA.*”

There is 1m tonne of food wastage each year with householders being responsible for 1/3 of this, at a cost of € 700 each year. She also listed the different commercial waste producers.

The Stop Food Waste message is – Savings both financial and environmental. She itemised the big food wastes – potatoes, fruit, 50% of salad, bread, meat, fish, and dairy products and gave the financial breakdown of each.

Householders waste 20kg a month and are being asked to set target to reduce this.

The 5 steps to tackle waste –

1. Awareness 2. Planning 3. Shopping 4. Storage 5. Serving and reuse

20% food waste is unavoidable (skins etc.) and the IPCC encourage composting at home and peat free gardening. In March 2017 the IPCC held its first food waste challenge and master composter training took place in Kildare Town over a four week period, with very positive participation.

Ireland has committed to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Ireland’s Food Waste Charter was introduced in March 2017.

The Chairman Seán Power thanked Ms Madigan for her presentation.

A number of issues were then discussed.

- Unused crops ploughed back into ground is actually fertiliser and not food waste.
- KCC requested to incentives people to use compost bin instead of brown bin
- Is there any funding for composting area
- Community composting – the Master class had participation from residents groups, schools, men’s sheds, McAuley Place
- Does the canteen in Áras Chill Dara have composting bin
- KCC plans to progress the National green procurement policy
- A target has been set to reduce waste by 10% in Áras Chill Dara
- Involve KCC’s Parks Department
- Will KCC recommence the selling of Compost bins
- Request to ensure the new waste facility in north Kildare has composting facilities
- Investigate use of the BioNova food digester (Meath LA)
- Investigate programme where people bring green waste and later collect compost (Dublin LAs)
- No designated programme for schools but wormeries are ideal for school calendar
- Request for survey on restaurants to be carried out - EPA currently doing this
- Possibility of meeting the UN goals – Awareness campaign needed
- Presentation to be made available on Members Net

#### **4. EASTERN MIDLANDS REGIONAL WASTE PLAN – ANNUAL REPORT 2016 To receive update from Hugh Coughlan, Regional Co-Ordinator**

The first Annual Report for the EMRWO was launched in December 2016 on behalf of 12 Local Authorities and Hugh Coughlan presented an overview of work over the year. Some key highlights were: Pay by Weight; Disposal Capacity Issues; C & D Waste; Re-Launch of the EU Circular Economy Package

He listed the overall performance targets – 1% reduction of household waste – 50% recycling rate - Reduce to 0% untreated waste to landfill.

He explained the key statistics for household waste, civic amenities and bring banks. The total MSW Kildare was 125,000 tonnes.

He gave a Summary of progress on each of the 8 policy actions

Policy A – Policy & Legislative Actions

Policy B – Prevention Actions

Policy C – Resource efficiency & Circular Economy

Policy D – Coordination actions

Policy E – Infrastructure Planning

Policy F – Enforcement & Regulation Actions

Policy G – Protection Actions

The 2017 Priorities are

- Household Waste [Incentivised Charging]
- Awareness & Education ( Segregation, Illegal Dumping)
- Construction & Demolition Waste Capacity
- Residual Waste Capacity
- Historic Landfills – Site Investigation/Remediation
- Waste Bye-Laws- National Template
- Tyre Stockpiles- Site Cleanups

Mr Coughlan raised some general issues:

- Paint re-use scheme – 3 per county - School + community hall
- New Rediscovery Centre in Ballymun / Convert of old boiler house / Fashion, upcycling / Bike repair / On site composting / Re-use academy / Free educational tours
- Opening of Poolbeg will allow extra capacity for waste
- Other areas to be addressed next years – waste water and water treatment sludges – waste oils/medicines
- Highlight illegal dumping
- Enforcement of household waste/permits/byelaws and Consistent approach

The Chairman Seán Power thanked Mr Coughlan for his presentation.

A number of issues were then discussed.

- Tyres – Is there any processing sites in Ireland for tyres or if they could be reused as fuel or ground cove. A programme to clean up the stock pile of tyres could cost €1m. A New tyre scheme looks likely where there would be an environmental charge for disposal.
- Bulky waste collection - could one be arranged where items could be left by one individual for collection by anyone requiring it.

- Section 56 Dredging – increased tonnage – the major impact this was having on the local roads / water was discussed. Risk assessments were carried out and a set of measures proposed to combat them would have been considered by the EPA. This was a once off agreement to deal with an emergency situation. The Local Authority commended for taking pro-active steps to deal with issue.
- C&D Waste - 4.8m tonne in total (1.2m increase since last year) -  
Could mandatory registering be introduced of people disposing of C&D waste and also the location of dumps. Could crushed concrete be reused – would licence be required. The Building Control Section of KCC may be able to assist in record keeping when receiving Commencement Notices.
- Pay by Weight Deadline – concerns were raised for People with medical conditions. All the stakeholders were involved in discussions in regard to measures to support segregation and waste prevention. Announcement charges will be made shortly. Considerations have been made for incontinence wear.
- Paint scheme – support for this scheme was expressed
- Sustainable programme for clothing – could a strategic pilot be developed
- 353 historic landfills in 12 LA – how many private/public  
Sites being assessed and then remediated. KCC is very active in this area. Funding was obtained for site at Digby and next year Carigeen
- Supplier / manufacturers to be held more responsible - incentive to return to supplier. Deposit scheme are not economically viable and would require substantial investment by LA.

## **5. TO RECEIVE A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE DRAFT RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Ms Yvonne Murray, Executive Engineer circulated a copy of the presentation that was made to the Full County Council on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and gave a brief overview.

The Draft River Basin Management Plan is a requirement under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000. This legal framework is in place to protect and restore clean water and to ensure its long-term, sustainable use along with achieving good ecological status in all waters.

The Draft River Basin Management Plan was approved by the Minister and published on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017. The 6 months public consultation process ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 and final submissions are due on this date. The final RBMP is due for completion by December 2017

The EU highlighted concerns after the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle and a new governance structure was set up and LAWCO was established. While it is EPA lead, Local Authorities are central. We are now in the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle, but two years behind.

Ms Murray explained that there was a detailed assessment of 46 catchments. 45% of rivers and 54% of lakes are at less than “good status” and there has been a drop in the “good” and “high” status numbers since 2007-2009. Significant investment has been made by Irish Water and all plants are now licensed. Staffing and funding resources are in constant discussion with the department. Clonshanbo waterbody was selected as the pilot project in Co Kildare.

She outlined the objectives and priorities of the plan along with the programme of measures and the implementation strategy. The role of the local authority includes the co-ordinated delivery of measures at regional and local level, tracking progress and effectiveness of measures, annual reporting of progress and supporting national policy development and implementation.

Ms Murray explained the role of LAWCO in encouraging community engagement and listed some of the issues raised at public meetings held in Kildare during April i.e. invasive species, biodiversity, amenity and recreation and abstraction.

The Chairman Seán Power thanked Ms Murray for her report.

A number of issues were then discussed.

- The graph entitled '*Significant Pressures in At Risk river and lake waterbodies in Liffey Catchment*'. This graph identified Agriculture as the most common significant pressure in the catchment. Mr Malone felt it was misleading believing that a significant pressure should not be equated to a significant polluter. Ms Murray responded by explaining that the graph only dealt with 'at risk' waterbodies, and that many of the waterbodies would have multiple pressures effecting water quality.
- A query was raised if there is a list of effective measurements. Ms Murray replied that there are regular monitoring of stations and sampling.
- Fencing – What policy do we need to ensure that this voluntary work should be mandatory? Ms Murray felt that there was full co-operation from farmers in regard to fencing. While KCC paid for the fencing it was erected by the farmers as part of the pilot scheme. Contact could be made with TEAGASC in regard to an incentivised scheme to assist farmers for future fencing.

## **6. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SPC MAY SPECIAL MEETING ON ILLEGAL DUMPING / LITTERING**

Cllr McLoughlin Healy asked that Item 5 – Open Discussion (page 6) of the minutes be amended to reflect more detail of the discussion that had taken place on her request regarding Newbridge Cemetery.

*In response to a query **from Cllr Fiona McLoughlin Healy** regarding spoil from the graves in the cemetery in Newbridge, Mr. Dunne advised the meeting that it had been removed and that he was looking at options regarding a more regulated arrangement. It was agreed that the caretaker would verbally request undertakers to use the bunker there at present. This item would be included for consideration as part of the proposed Cemetery Bye-Laws.*

Joe Boland recommended to the Committee that Item 6 – Agreed Action Plan be referred to the full Council. This was then proposed by Cllr Íde Cussen and seconded by Cllr Fiona McLoughlin Healy

## **7. NOTICE OF MOTION – CLLR MARK STAFFORD**

To consider this Notice of Motion – Referred from full County Council 23/0317

*“That this council will, where possible, replace existing coriboard regulatory signs with fewer more aesthetic permanent signs, such signs to be erected in town/village squares and on entrances to towns and villages.”*

This matter was deferred.

## **8. NOTICE OF MOTION – CLLR MARK LYNCH**

To consider this Notice of Motion – Referred from full County Council 17/0317

*“That this council makes itself a lead partner in proactively organising an ongoing countywide tender for the collection of household waste refuse once a month at centrally designated sites. The assigned contractor would work out a scheme whereby residents could pay per bag or weight for household waste. There should be no direct cost to the council, instead we should use the councils ability to use economies of scale to reduce the individual price for residents e.g. on a certain Saturday 8am-5pm at a central point in Newbridge, residents could pay discounted rates to dispose of household refuse in a responsible manner into a waste operators lorry or large skip for a reduced rate. This could move from municipal district to municipal district on a monthly basis.”*

This matter was deferred.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **• ILLEGAL SIGNAGE**

The matter of excessive signage was raised by a number of Councillors as it is a countywide problem and has been raised on a number of occasions at MD level.

Some of the issues are

- Dirty signs / timber frames being left behind
- cheap alcohol being advertised
- repetitive signs at every entrance into a town
- particular issue on bank holidays
- poor enforcement
- no clear contact point for representations
- problem for Tidy Towns Committees

Joe Boland shared the concerns and frustrations of the Committee. He suggested that as illegal signage is both a Planning and Environmental issue a request could be made for a joint meeting with the Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC with a view to identifying what progress can be made on a policy to deal with excessive signs - what can be dealt with under litter legislation or under planning legislation.

It was RESOLVED by the Committee Members that a request should issue for a Joint meeting with the Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC

## **THIS CONCLUDED THE MEETING.**