



KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & WATER STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

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

PRESENT:

Councillors: Seán Power, Íde Cussen, Brendan Young, Michael Coleman, Fintan Brett, Fiona McLoughlin Healy, Anthony Larkin

Sectoral Interests: Deirdre Lane and Tom Malone

Officials: Joe Boland, Director of Services
Liam Dunne, Senior Executive Officer
Brian O’Gorman, Administrative Officer
Marie Callaghan, Assistant Staff Officer

Also in Attendance: Hugh Coughlan

Also Invited Cllrs: Cllr Mark Stafford and Cllr Mark Lynch

1. MINUTES

Minutes of meeting of the 7th June 2017 were agreed.
Proposed by Cllr Cussen and seconded by Tom Malone.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Cllr asked for an update on the issues discussed in Item 3 – Brown is the new Black.
Mr Boland agreed to compile a progress report for circulation.

3. PRESENTATION – CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION WASTE

To receive update from Hugh Coughlan, EMRWO, on challenges in the Region

Mr Hugh Coughlan, Regional Co-Ordinator, Eastern Midlands Regional Waste Office gave a presentation to the Committee on the current position and challenges of the Construction and Demolition Industry. There has been an increase in activity over the last couple of years and the challenge is how to deal with C&D sustainably. He showed the C&D data profile and projections but and he stressed that regular, reliable data is essential for measuring performance. He outlined the treatment and capacities of C&D and also of Soil Waste Management, identifying the issues that need to be addressed. He also gave an insight into Developing Markets - from Waste to Resources - and the importance to implement measures to sustain and grow markets for recycling (secondary) materials.

Mr Coughlan passed on Brian White's apologies and outlined the main points of Mr White's presentation. He highlighted the main national priorities for 2017, including C&D waste, Brown Bin, End of life vehicles, Tyres and Packaging. He also summarised the key points and concerns of Article 27 – allows an economic operator to decide if a material is a by-product.

The Chairman Seán Power thanked Mr Coughlan for his presentation.

A number of issues were then discussed.

- Article 27 – self certification – EPA revised guidance available in next few weeks
- Contractors not taking ownership of Article 27 notification – could be haulier
- Material being moved before decision made from EPA
- Developers exploits time lag between notification and a decision by the EPA
- Suggestion that Article 27 procedure should be a formal application rather than a declaration process
- Use of CCTV to monitor movement into quarries
- Regulation of quarries – generally good co-operation with quarries
- How to deal with material on site – crusher on site
- Flexibility for material to be reused on farms
- Discussion Document currently with EPA
- Proposals for another tier to facilitate small scale activity
- Review of permit limits
- 80% - soil and stone - 20% wood, metal – recyclables
- Landfill – capacity limit for C&D
- Problem with legacy issues

4. PRESENTATION – EAST & MIDLAND REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE OFFICE To receive presentation from Kevin Motherway, S.E.S. on the establishment of the Regional Office

Mr Motherway informed the Committee that following an evaluation process, Kildare County Council, working with Maynooth NUI, was appointed as lead authority for the establishment and management of the Climate Change Office for the East & Midlands Region which consists of 17 Local Authorities. He outlined the structure of the Office and the key challenges to the Region.

Some of the key aims will be to

- Inter Agency Role / Cross Boundary Issues
- responsibility for the formulation of a Regional Climate Change Adaption Plan
- Advising on the drafting and implementation of the 17 individual Local Authority Plans, ensuring consistency.
- Climate Action - Coordinate Mitigation and Adaptation
- Source Funding
- Clear Key Performance Indicators

The Chairman Seán Power thanked Mr Motherway for his presentation.

A discussion took place and a number of issues were addressed.

- Confirmation that funding from the Covenant of Mayors is being investigated, along with other possible source of funding
- Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals
- Main problems on East Coast, eg Dart Line – may need to be re-engineered
- Maynooth NUI expertise in research will be an advantage
- Kildare's own Climate Action Plan to be available by end of 2018
Adaptation – a lot of work done but maybe not documented as Climate adaptation.
Has to be captured into documents. Some more work to capture it further
- Policy Areas for consideration :
Zero Carbon Housing / building Structures
Sustainable planning / suburban sprawl / public transport
Linkage between Climate Mitigation and Adaptation
- A decision re funding is awaited but it is anticipated that the Office will be established Feb/Mar 2018.

5. (A) CEMETERY DRAFT BYE-LAWS

This matter was deferred to next meeting.

(B) SIGNAGE

Mr Liam Dunne informed the members that the proposed date for the joint meeting with the Economic Development & Planning SPC had been arranged for the 1st December 2017. It was agreed that an agenda for the day be set out to keep focus on the main matters.

It was noted that the recruitment of a replacement Litter Warden for Celbridge was in progress. The area is currently being covered by the other Litter wardens.

(c) ABANDONED CARS

Mr Liam Dunne informed the Committee that the number of abandoned cars had increased substantially in the last number of years, from an annual figure of 50 to a monthly figure of 20-30. It is a particular problem in the north of the county and in housing estates.

He explained that once the registered owner of the abandoned car is identified a notification is issued by Post. If the owner had changed then a new notice would have to be reissued, thereby recommencing the 21 Notification Period. Going forward it is proposed that a new high viz sticker will also be placed on the car, and this will remove the requirement to recommence the 21 day notification period. This should then shorten the timeframe in which this problem can be rectified.

The Members welcomed this initiative. It was clarified that the removal of a car, where tax has expired by three months, is a matter for the Garda Síochána to enforce.

6. “THAT THE CIVIC AMENITY FACILITY FOR CELBRIDGE HAVE A COMPOST RETURNS AREA FOR GREEN WASTE”

Mr Joe Boland noted the request and felt it was a worthwhile suggestion and could be incorporated in the draft plans. He confirmed that the Council is currently trying to identify funding for the project. Cllr Larkin asked for clarification if it would go to Part 8 as he had some concerns.

It was confirmed that the project would go through a Part 8 process along with an application to the EPA for waste licence. Consultation had also taken place with our Transportation Department.

7. (A) 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.”

Cllr Stafford attended the meeting and presented his motion. He felt that a number of coriboard signs were being used incorrectly or excessively. He noted that after a period of time these signs had become unsightly.

The motion was discussed by the Committee. It was noted that these signs are very popular with residents groups as they are specific to their local area and promote community awareness. The cost factor of replacing coriboard signs with steel signs would be significant.

It was agreed that the erection of a more aesthetic welcome/information sign to the entrance of a village could be considered as a pilot scheme, following clarification on planning and signage policy issues. It was also agreed that this motion could be considered at the Joint Meeting for signage.

Cllr Stafford thanked the Committee.

(B) 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 council's 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 operator's lorry or large skip for a reduced rate. This could move from municipal district to municipal district on a monthly basis.”

Cllr Lynch attended the meeting and presented his motion. He felt that the provision of an alternative waste collection would assist a number of people, particularly the elderly. He stressed that it was for local operators to manage and not the local authority. He also requested if a bulky waste collection could be considered.

The motion was discussed by the Committee. Though well intentioned, it was not considered practical for a number of compelling reasons.

- Storage of household waste for an extended period of time could be problematic.
- It was not felt that as there would have to be a charge it would not reduce illegal dumping
- it was noted that an agreeable operator had not yet been identified
- a site would have to be licensed
- permits would be required if not emptied each night
- as privately operated there would still be a charge for usage for the elderly

It was agreed that a Bulky Waste Collection (not household) would be considered as a pilot scheme.

Cllr Lynch thanked the Committee.

(c) NOTICE OF MOTION – CLLR CUSSEN

To consider this Notice of Motion – Referred from full County Council 16/0517

That this council ban the use of Glyphosate in public areas within the remit of Kildare County Council.

This matter was deferred to the March 2018 meeting, to be held in conjunction with the presentation on Soil. Cllr Cussen asked that the usage of glyphosate in the Parks Department and the costs associated with same be ascertained for the next meeting.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Cllr Fiona McLoughlin Healy requested that a response to motions be circulated before the meetings, similar to full Council. Joe Boland agreed to this request.
- Deirdre Lane requested that her motion on Fluoridation be discussed. It was confirmed that motion was received too late for inclusion on the agenda but would be on the agenda for December.
- Cllr Brendan Young informed the Committee that there was some confusion over the date for submission on the Draft River Basin Management Plan. He enquired if the council had made a submission.

THIS CONCLUDED THE MEETING.