



# KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & WATER STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020  
@ 2:30PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS CHILL DARA**

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: Suzanne Doyle (Chair), Ide Cussen, Brian Dooley

Sectoral Interests: Emer Conway, PPN - Environmental/ Conservation  
Evan Arkwright, Business/Commercial

Officials: Joe Boland, Director of Services  
Ken Kavanagh, Senior Executive Officer  
Edele O'Brien, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment  
Cora Dempsey, ASO, Environment  
Geraldine Morris, Clerical Officer, Environment

**APOLOGIES:** Padraic O'Lunaigh, PPN - Community/Voluntary  
Cllr Vanessa Liston

**ABSENT:** Cllr Brendan Wyse, Cllr Anne Breen

Cllr Suzanne Doyle, Chair, welcomed all members of the SPC and introductions took place. It was noted that this meeting was largely introductory.

Round table introductions took place.

**1. TO NOTE MEMBERSHIP OF STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

The following membership was noted:

Councillor Suzanne Doyle (Chair),  
Councillor Anne Breen  
Councillor Ide Cussen  
Councillor Brian Dooley  
Councillor Vanessa Liston  
Councillor Brendan Wyse  
Mr Evan Arkwright, Business/Commercial  
Ms Emer Conway, PPN – Environmental/Conservation  
Mr Padraic O'Lunaigh, PPN – Community/Voluntary  
Vacant position, Agriculture/Farming

**2. TO NOTE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019,**

These minutes were duly noted.

Councillor Cussen raised item 8 relating to Féileacáin and noted that matters were being followed up by the Director of Services.

**3. TO NOTE STANDING ORDERS**

Noted.

#### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Requirements noted

#### **5. TO RECEIVE AN OVERVIEW ON TIDY TOWNS**

A presentation was made by Cora Dempsey, Tidy Towns Coordinator which focused in the following aspects:

- Tidy Town activities 2019
- IBAL Results 2018 & 2019
- Climate Action Workshop
- Tidy Towns Networking Meeting held March 2019
- Visit to Glaslough, winning town of 2019
- Ballymore Eustace Community Fun Day
- Results of Best Kept Town Competition
- Visit to Farmleigh House
- Medal winners 2019
- Tidy Towns Awards Ceremony September 2019
- Other awards for Co Kildare County Council
- Analysis of Results
- Community Awards Night – Maynooth University
- News re Tidy Towns 2019
- Plans to extend Partnership Agreement between Kildare GAA & KCC
- Some areas of interest for 2020

This was noted by the members who commended both the Council as well as the Tidy Towns Groups on the considerable progress which was made in recent years.

#### **6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS INITIATIVES**

An outline of current initiatives was given by Ken Kavanagh, Senior Executive Officer, which focused on the following aspects:

- General Education:
  - Green Schools
  - Waste Talks
- Litter
  - National Spring Clean and Lily White Cleanup
  - Takeaway Not Throwaway” litter poster campaign
  - Green Kilometre
  - Dog fouling Audio Warning
  - Dog fouling Stencils
- Waste Reduction and Recycling
  - Recycling banks
  - Water Refill station
- Other
  - National Tree Week
  - CEAF grant
  - Sustainable Community Pilot Project
  - Community composting

This was also noted by the members. It was agreed that this would continue to be a key policy area which would be revisited by the SPC from time to time.

## **7. TO NOTE PROPOSED REVIEW OF THE LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS**

Mr Ken Kavanagh, Senior Executive Officer, confirmed that the Litter Management Plan is due to for review in 2020. . Initially, this would include a significant level of public consultation where it was hoped to use the council's new online public consultation portal. In this context, the members of the SPC highlighted the following aspects:

- To be innovative in terms of such consultation (South Dublin County Council and Kerry County Council were cited as a possible example of good practice)
- Ensure coordination among stakeholders (Athy MD cited as an example)

Other points raised referred to the need for measures to combat the 'man in the van', dog fouling as well as the pervasive nature of fly-tipping.

Mr Kavanagh would endeavour to have a draft plan available for the next meeting. He would also take on board the suggestions of the Committee.

## **8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE FLOOD ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME**

A presentation was given by Ms Edele O'Brien, Senior Executive Engineer, which focused on the following aspects:

- Flood relief schemes generally
- CFRAM programme in conjunction with OPW
- Plan Structures & Content
- Plan measures
- Update on current schemes

From a policy perspective, the SPC members highlighted the need to liaise with other stakeholders (eg Bord na Mona in the case of re-wetting boglands) as well as the desirability of linking with climate action initiatives.

The Director of Services highlighted the importance of progressing the Athy CFRAMs scheme at an early date and, in this context would be liaising with the MD at an early date.

## **9. TO AGREE A WORKPLAN FOR 2020**

The Committee noted the work programme of the outgoing SPC. Some concern was expressed regarding possible duplication of work in terms of the Climate Action SPC although such could also be complementary in some instances (pollination plan, grass cutting etc). It was also noted that there were some outstanding issues from the previous SPC. Reference was also made to the following:

- The opportunity to feed into environmental policies relating to the forthcoming review of the County Development Plan
- Examining models of good practice in other local authorities

It was agreed that members were free to submit policies items for consideration to the Senior Executive Officer in advance of the next meeting.

## **10. TO NOTE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2020.**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at 10am  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 10am  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 10am

These dates were noted

The Chair expressed the desirability of the SPC being dynamic and focused on strong performance. The meeting then concluded.