

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 5
Environmental Protection, Water Services & Energy
Held on 21st February 2018**

In the Chair: Cllr. Maurice Shortall

In Attendance: Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Maurice Shortall, Cllr. Tomas Breathnach, Cllr. Joe Malone, Sadhbh O'Neill, James Murphy

Also Present: Mr. Sean McKeown, Director of Service
Mr. Seamus Foley, A/Senior Engineer
Ms. Catherine Millea, Senior Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr. Ger Frisby, Cllr. Breda Gardner, Shem Caulfield.

- Item 1** **Minutes of SPC 5 Meeting held on 16th November 2017**
Proposed by Cllr Tomas Breathnach, seconded by Cllr Joe Malone and agreed:- "that the minutes of SPC5 meeting held on 16th November 2017, a copy of which was circulated to each member with the Agenda, is hereby adopted"
- Item 2** Chairman Maurice Shortall handed over to the new Chairman Tomas Breathnach, which was agreed at council meeting held on Monday 19th February 2018.
Cllr Joe Malone extended his thanks to out going Chairman Maurice Shortall. James Murphy re-iterated these sentiments. The new Chairman Tomas Breathnach also commended Cllr Shortall on his time as Chairman. Cllr Shortall extended congratulations to James Murphy on his recent election as County Chairman of Kilkenny IFA.
- Item 3** **Dunmore Recycling Centre**
Sean McKeown spoke on the issues facing Dunmore CAS and the challenge of running the site on a cost neutral basis. He advised that a desk top study is underway to establish if further efficiencies can be achieved. Sadhbh O'Neill requested that the members of SPC 5 have an input in any recommendations.
James Murphy advised of his recent trip to a bio-refinery plant in Holland. He also spoke of the good work being done by the 3 Counties Energy Agency (3CEA). He also advised that the IFA are working on funding for waste tyres. Maurice Shortall advised the meeting that the savings Dunmore generates to Kilkenny in terms of reduced litter and dumping needs to be taken into account in any future decision on the operation of the Centre.
- Item 4** **Action Plan**
Sean McKeown advised the meeting that a Service Delivery Plan will be presented to members at the March Council meeting for approval. He said

a number of items from this Plan have been extracted to form a draft Action Plan for SPC 5 over the next 2 years as requested by the Chairman. However, it was noted that while the Action Plan is intended to assist in focusing the work of the SPC, this does not preclude members from raising other issues as they see fit. Furthermore, other policy issues are likely to arise that will require input from the SPC over time. The Action Plan was summarised as follows:

1. Litter Management Plan
2. RMCEI (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections). This sets out the list of environmental inspections that Kilkenny County Council commit to do during the calendar year. It was noted that the EPA gave Kilkenny County Council an "excellent" grading in the implementation of their RMCEI for 2016.
3. Noise Action Plan. A draft Plan needs to be forwarded to the EPA by 1st March 2018. The Plan will then be placed on public consultation and SPC 5 will have an opportunity to feed into this.
4. Coastal Pollution Plan – Belview Estuary. This Plan needs to be updated for 2018.
5. New Tyre Regulations. It was noted that WERLA (Waste Enforcement Regulatory Lead Authority) is the guidance authority. Cork County Council is the lead local authority for the southern region under WERLA. The Department, via WERLA, make funding available, advise on national priorities and provide guidance and support to local authorities to ensure consistency in implementing waste enforcement activities.
6. Pilot strategy to deal with control of animals – a draft document was circulated to committee members.
7. Notices of Motion – two Notices of Motion for upcoming March Council meeting.
 - a) Horse Exclusion Zones – need to re-draft Bye Laws
 - b) That the use of Glyphosate be banned for use by Council staff

A discussion took place around the Action Plan with contributions from James Murphy, Pat Dunphy, Sadhbh O'Neill. In particular, it was suggested that the SPC should also include in the Action Plan the following:

- Water Quality Management Plan;
- Climate Adaptation Plan. It was noted that Minister Naughten launched the National Adaptation Framework on 19th January last, which sets out the requirements for the formulation of Adaptation and Mitigation Plans appropriate to each county and region. Local authorities have agreed nationally that the preparation of Local Climate Adaptation Plans will be facilitated through Regional Climate Change Offices. In this regard, Kilkenny County Council is in the Eastern & Midlands Region and Kildare County Council have been nominated as the lead local authority for this region. The Climate Change Offices will assist local authorities to develop their statutory plans setting out how they intend to transition to a low carbon, climate resilient economy and society, and they will also have an ongoing role in monitoring the implementation of the plans.

The Chairman Tomas Breathnach advised that the Action Plan will not be restrictive and that all relevant policy matters can be raised at SPC meetings.

Item 5**Draft Animal Welfare Charter**

Sean McKeown outlined the background to the Charter. He advised the meeting that it has been sent to the ISPCA but they have not come back to him with a considered view to date. He also advised the meeting that the Animal Welfare Charter will be referenced in the "Pilot Strategy to deal with Control of Animals".

Sadhbh O'Neill sought clarification that the Charter be used to target all communities in relation to animal welfare.

Clrs Joe Malone and Pat Dunphy also requested that dog fouling be incorporated into the Charter.

James Murphy also raised the issue of responsible dog and horse ownership. He also raised the issue of horses needing a passport.

Sean McKeown advised that all of Kilkenny is a Control Area under our current Bye Laws and that all horses should be passported. He also advised that the Charter is a work in progress and needs an input from the ISPCA.

Item 6**Any Other Business**

Clr Pat Dunphy raised the issue of Solar Energy and the fact that there is no National policy in place.

A discussion took place around ground mounted solar panels and wind energy.

James Murphy advised that some expertise in solar energy is needed and asked about the possibility of an expert being invited to present at a future meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 9th May 2018 at 3pm.