

**Minute of Strategic Policy Committee 5
Environmental Protection, Water Services & Energy
Held on Thursday, 9th Feb, 2017 at 3pm in the Council Chamber**

In the Chair: Cllr. Maurice Shortall

In Attendance: Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr Breda Gardner, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr. Ger Frisby, Ms. Sadhbh O'Neill, Shem Caulfield

Also Present

**Ms Mary Mulholland, Director of Service
Ms. Carol McCarthy, A/Senior Engineer
Ms Bernadette Moloney, Environmental Awareness Officer
Ms Maeve Good, A/Executive Engineer**

Apologies: Mr. James Murphy

Item 1 Minute of SPC5 Meeting held on the 10th Nov., 2016

Proposed by Cllr. Frisby, seconded by Cllr Brennan and agreed:- "that the minute of SPC5 held on the 10th Nov., 2016, a copy of which was circulated to each member with the agenda, is hereby adopted".

Item 2 Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) - Action List for 2017 by Declan Keogh of Carlow/Kilkenny Energy Agency

Mr Keogh outlined the progress since his last presentation to the SPC and informed the meeting the SEAP was submitted to EU on the 20th of Jan. He then outlined the types of projects included in the 2017 action plan in the following categories; public sector, community, commercial, residential and agricultural.

Contributions:

Cllr Gardner, Ms. O'Neill, Mr Caulfield Cllr. Brennan, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr. Ger Frisby.

Ms Mulholland offered to visit Thomastown with the CKEA to meet with the Thomastown Community Network to encourage the establishment of the SEAI Sustainable Energy Community if an energy champion can be identified locally.

Chairman thanked Mr Keogh for his presentation and invited him to return in the autumn to update the members on the SEAP progress.

Item 3 Introduction to the Local Authority Waters & Communities Office (LAWCO)

Ann Phelan introduced the Local Authority Waters & Communities Office and explained her new role detailing how it will compliment the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. Public participation will be a key and the office will encourage local communities to get involved as water quality will benefit the environment, general health and the local economy. The draft River Basin Management Plan is soon to be published and LAWCO will be completing a series of public consultation events to get public input into the plan.

Contributions:

Cllr. Malone, Cllr. Brennan, Cllr. Dunphy, Ms. O'Neill, Mr Caulfield, Cllr. Ger Frisby. Cllr Gardner, Cllr Shortall

B. Moloney to circulate by email the presentation and contact details of A. Phelan.

Item 4 Waste Management Update relating to the Review of Designated Bag Areas & 3rd Bin for Food Waste Update

Ms McCarthy provided an update on the status of the use of pre paid refuse and recycling bags and circulated a report. After reviewing the exemption forms received from the public, it has been decided that the following householders can continue using bags.

1. Dwellings such as apartments and terraced houses with no space for bins
2. Dwellings on streets with narrow footpaths
3. Dwellings with curtilages that have physical features such as steps which would make the use of reusable receptacles impractical
4. Householders with health / mobility issues
5. Dwellings in remote areas that would not otherwise have a refuse collection service.

It is proposed that a further review would take place at the end of the year after the Department has completed its own review of the pay by weight system.

Ms McCarthy updated the members on the status of the roll out of the brown bin in the county and stated that now only 6 urban areas in the County with populations over 1,500 people now requires to separate out food waste from normal refuse. The gradual introduction is a new direction and eventually all urban areas with a population greater than 500 will fall under this requirement but for now only the

larger areas are required. The enforcement section is working with the waste collection industry to ensure compliance.

Contributions:

Cllr. Malone, Cllr Shortall, Mr Caulfield, Cllr. Brennan, Cllr. Dunphy, Ms. O'Neill, Cllr. Ger Frisby. Cllr Gardner,

Item 5 Carlow/Kilkenny Dog Shelter Tender Update

Ms McCarthy updated the members on the status of the dog shelter tender. An independent assessment panel is set up to review tenders received. Tenders that qualify will be interviewed. The ISPCA is due to finish at the end of February however they will be approached to ensure that a service remains at the dog shelter until the successful tender is ready to take over its operations.

Contributions: Cllr Gardner, Cllr Shortall,

Item 6 Update on South Kilkenny Civic Amenity Centre Tender

Ms McCarthy informed the members that the South Kilkenny Civic Amenity tender was withdrawn and a new tender document will be drawn up and advertised.

Contributions: Cllr Shortall, Cllr. Dunphy

Item 7 AOB

Ms. O'Neill requested two items to be placed on the agenda for further discussion.

The National Biodiversity Plan which is currently on public consultation & the SPC 5 roll on assisting rolling out Kilkenny's Public Transport Scheme.

Ms O' Neill was informed that the submission deadline for the Biodiversity plan is today and that the Heritage Officer made a submission on behalf of the Council. It was agreed that when the Local Biodiversity Plan is under review, the SPC will invite the Heritage Officer to SPC 5 or the relevant SPC will be asked to open their meeting up to SPC 5 members to allow input into the local plan.

Regarding the request on Kilkenny's Public Transport Scheme it was agreed to put it on as an item at the next meeting in April or liaise with the relevant SPC to determine if it will be on their agenda and to request this meeting to be opened up to the SPC 5 members. The SPC 5 meeting administrator will liaise with the SPC 5 chair and other SPC administrators to determine the best way forward to facilitate Ms O'Neill's request.