

**Minutes of Meeting of the Environmental and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee held on
Monday 29th February, 2016 at 3:30 pm in Council Chamber,
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present:

SPC Members

Cllr. J. Cooney, Chair
Cllr. C. Curtin
Cllr. B. Slattery
Cllr. A. O'Callaghan
Cllr. M. Hillery
Cllr. C. Crowe
Mr. D. M. Wise
Mr. J. Higgins
Mr. M. McMahon
Mr. J. Corbett

Staff of Clare County Council

Ms. A. Haugh, Director of Services
Mr. P. Moroney, S.E., Environment Section
Mr. T. Tiernan, S.E., Roads Section
Mr. J. Corry, A.O. Roads Section
Mr. D. Leahy, E.E. Environment Section
Ms. E. McCooey, A.O., Environment Section

Item 1 - Confirmation of Minutes of SPC Meeting of 30th November, 2015. The minutes were proposed by Cllr. C. Curtin and seconded by Cllr. B. Slattery.

Item 2 – Review of Beach Byelaws:-

Etain McCooey, AO went through the changes to the proposed Beach Bye laws in detail and asked for comments. She stated that 2 sets of Beach Bye Laws were in existence at the moment and the proposal was to revise the Bye-Laws and have one set of Beach Bye-Laws for the county. She advised that with the abolition of the Town Councils all of the areas were now under the remit of Clare County Council. She indicated that the main issues over the years were the control of dogs at the beaches and commercial activities during the summer & she advised that these issues are managed under the Bye-laws.

- There was a request that a small bin would be provided to take dog waste. It was confirmed that 3 or 4 of those bins were ordered and the members should see progress on this matter. The Senior Engineer also confirmed that they would be starting a campaign re responsible pet ownership.
- Litter at the beaches – it was suggested that suitable bins should be provided to alleviate the problem possibly with the control of CCTV. The Council's policy in relation to this was queried. The Senior Engineer confirmed that in relation to marine litter they had facilitated a clean up of beaches particularly after the recent storms. He indicated regarding the provision of more bins, that this in itself provided issues regarding being used for dumping of domestic waste etc & he indicated that this matter was under active consideration.
- The issue of waste coming in over land following the storms was raised and the possibility of providing a container to collect this waste. The Senior Engineer stated that generally the Council only concentrated on public areas.
- The €75 on the spot fine was discussed briefly.

Cllr. C. Curtin proposed that the Draft Bye Laws be put forward for public consultation and this was seconded by Cllr. M. Hillery.

Item 3 – Policy on Free Access to Waste Transfer Stations/Waste Management Facilities (re Voluntary & Community Clean Ups):-

David Leahy, EE gave a presentation on this matter. Cllr. Curtin commended David and the Team for the work they were doing and asked had there been a wide take-up on the free access for voluntary and community clean ups. P. Moroney, SE stated that it was generally a “Spring Clean” initiative. He added that last year 130 free passes were issued by Clare County Council. Concerns were raised about segregating waste.

Item 4 – Draft Memorial Policy:-

Tom Tiernan, SE gave a presentation on this draft policy and stated that this was very much an initial draft being put out to the SPC to get some initial views. He indicated that it was divided into a few sections ie Civic Memorials, Community & Family Memorials & Roadside Memorials. He invited comments on what was being proposed. The members welcomed the new draft policy on memorials as they indicated that in the past the issue of memorials was dealt with on an ad hoc basis. It was agreed that the placement of memorials was a sensitive issue and one of the benefits of the document was that it would clarify what was exempted etc.

An issue was raised regarding Civic Memorials as it was suggested that there could be several of them this year for the 1916 Centenary Year.

Evidence of appropriate insurance was discussed also and who was responsible if there was an accident tending to or visiting these memorials. It was agreed that there would be no retrospective actions and they didn’t want over-regulation.

The question of the policy going to public consultation was raised and it was proposed by Cllr. Curtin that the draft policy should go to the Municipal Districts first and this was seconded by Cllr. Hillery. Mr. D. M. Wise suggested that it should go to the PPN and this was agreed by all.

Item 5 – Any Other Business:-

- Dates for future meetings – 30th May, 26th September and 28th November all at 3:30 pm.
- It was indicated that the Irish Wheelchair Association suggested that a disability audit be carried out on venues planned to be used for the Ennis Street Festival. Cllr. Cooney asked that the Irish Wheelchair Assoc would submit a letter to Clare Co Co re same.
- An issue regarding the state of our rivers was raised at the last meeting and it was indicated that what happened in Clonlara may not have occurred if rivers were being cleaned & dredged.
- It was indicated that a discussion on cycle tracks had taken place at the previous meeting and this wasn’t reflected in the minutes.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

**Cllr. Joe Cooney
Chairperson**

Date:

Signed:

**John Corry
Administrative Officer**

Date:
