

**Minutes of Meeting of the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee held on Monday
27th February, 2017 at 3:00 pm in the Council Chamber,
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present:

SPC Members

Cllr. J. Cooney, Chair
Cllr. C. Curtin
Cllr. M. Hillary
Cllr. C. Curtin
Mr. M. McMahon
Mr. J Corbett
Mr. J Higgins
Ms. S Clancy (PPN)
Cllr. C. Crowe

Staff of Clare County Council

Mr. J. Leahy, S.E., Environment Section
Mr. S. Ward, S.E., Water Services
Mr. J. Corry, A.O. Roads Section
Mr. P. Stephens, Energy Agency Manager
Ms. M. Eustace, A.S.O. Environment Section

Apologies: Cllr. Bill Slattery; Anne Haugh, T.Tiernan, A. St. Ledger, D. M. Wise Â.

Item 1 - Confirmation of Minutes of SPC Meeting of 28th November, 2016.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr. C. Curtin and seconded by M. McMahon.

There were no matters arising

Item 2 –Presentation from the Public Participation Network (PPN):-

Sarah Clancy attended the meeting on behalf of the Clare Public Participation Network. After a brief introduction Ms. Clancy said she was trying to meet as many sections of Clare County Council as possible and was attending a number of S.P.C meetings. She advised that she was the only person employed in Clare P.P.N. She added that the PPN was set up to replace the Community and Voluntary forums and to help develop the expertise that community groups had. She mentioned that they had 223 groups registered with the P.P.N . S. Clancy spoke regarding the communication channel and the importance of keeping the PPN updated on Council policies.

Cllr. Crowe asked for clarification regarding the PPN website and registration with the PPN.

Cllr. Cooney thanked S. Clancy for attending the meeting.

Item 3 –The 2017-2021 IW Capital Investment Programme:-

S. Ward gave a detailed update on the IW Capital Investment Programme . He added that Irish Water had not yet formally announced its 2017-2021 CIP but he added that Clare County Council had been informed that it would comprise the following projects in Clare:

- Shannon – phase 2 of upgrade of wastewater treatment plant (continuing from phase 1 practically completed in 2016). Shannon was consistently in breach of the Waste Water Directive.
- Quin – upgrade of wastewater treatment plant (continuing from 2014-2016 CIP)
- Kilfenora – upgrade of wastewater treatment plant (continuing from 2014-2016 CIP)
- Ennistymon – upgrade of wastewater treatment plant (new project)
- Newmarket – upgrade of wastewater treatment plant, including relocating treated effluent outfall from Lough Gash (new project)

He added that Planning and Design had commenced for Quin and Kilfenora. S. Ward also mentioned that Irish Water was also proposing the following projects separately from the CIP:

- Ballyvaughan, Clarecastle, Kilkee, Kilrush and Liscannor – included in a national project to provide wastewater treatment for sites currently discharging untreated wastewater into sea or estuary waters, to bring these into compliance with the European Urban Wastewater Directive
- Miltown Malbay – upgrade of wastewater treatment plant

He added that other projects included the decommissioning of Rockmount Treatment Plant.

Cllr. Hillary thanked S. Ward for the update and asked regarding the water supply from Doolough to Miltown Malbay he asked if there were any plans to put a reservoir in the town as Miltown Malbay often went without water when pressure came on the system.

Cllr. Curtin reinforced Cllr. Hillary's point and added that there had been eight breaks on the line in six months including on Christmas day.

M. McMahon raised the issue of Sewerage going into the sea and that the EU had to tell us how to clean up our act. He added that all water entering our waterways needed to be appropriately filtered.

Cllr. J. Cooney agreed with this point.

S. Ward replied that it was proposed to put a reservoir in Rockmount to serve the area with a bigger capacity and that this project would proceed.

Cllr. Crowe spoke regarding a number of main schemes which had burst and suggested that if it was possible that old wells and pump wells could be renovated to provide a source of water which could assist the community.

S. Ward responded that they would be very aesthetically pleasing but that they might not meet current drinking water regulations.

The members thanked S Ward for his update.

Item 4 – Energy & Climate Change

P. Stephens addressed the meeting regarding Energy & Climate Change – he said that the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment issued a public sector energy strategy which set out the public sector role in achieving a 33% increase in energy efficiency and building energy efficiency. He added that Clare County Council expected to be at 16% when figures for 2016 were taken into consideration. He added the biggest barrier was an investment in infrastructure. He also added that for Local Authorities that Public Lighting represented 40%-50% of the Councils energy cost. He advised that Biomass industries needed to be developed.

He continued that the Dept. announced a National Mitigation Plan Consultation Strategy. He added that in accordance with legislation that Ireland must produce two plans, a Mitigation Plan and an Adaption Plan. He also added that it was expected that the Dept. would publish a draft National Adaptation framework plan in May/June. He added that an Adaptation Strategy would be developed by the Local Authority and would have to reflect the National Framework plan.

M. McMahon asked if waste products were looked at to generate heat at Schools.

P. Stephens replied that they had not been looked at, however he advised that the development of biomass supply to benefit large public buildings and wood chip had been investigated.

Item 5 – Any Other Business:-

J. Leahy provided an update on Lahinch & Spanish Point Beach improvement works. He added that Part VIII for Lahinch had been approved and that the tender process was ongoing at the moment. He added that it was hoped work would be concluded by the beginning of the bathing season. He further added that the Part VIII for Spanish Point was objected to by NPWS & that a response would issue in the next four to six weeks. He added that he hoped that works would be completed here by the end of the year.

M. McMahon spoke regarding Climate Change and said there was a need to have more money allocated to deal with same.

Cllr. Cooney agreed & said more investment was needed and that the rivers needed to be cleaned.

Cllr. Cooney said that Illegal Dumping was still ongoing.

J. Leahy responded that the response to illegal dumping was complex & required a multi pronged approach including CCTV monitoring. He added the Council had been successful with a no of cases which had been taken to court.

Cllr. Curtin enquired regarding the schedule of meetings. J. Corry responded the meetings for the remainder of this year were scheduled for the 29th of May, 25th of September and the 27th of November 2017.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Next meeting set for 29th May, 2017

Signed:

Cllr. Joe Cooney
Chairperson

Date:

Signed:

John Corry
Administrative Officer

Date: