

Minutes of Meeting of the Environmental and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee held on Monday 30th May , 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
Mr. D. M. Wise
Mr. J. Corbett

Staff of Clare County Council

Ms. A. Haugh, Director of Services
Mr. P. Moroney, S.E., Environment Section
Mr. J. Corry, A.O. Roads Section
Ms. E. McCooey, A.O., Environment Section
Ms. D. O'Keeffe, S.S.O., Water Services
Ms. Claire McGrath, S.O., Environment Section

Item 1 - Confirmation of Minutes of SPC Meeting of 29th February , 2016. The minutes were proposed by Cllr. C. Curtin and seconded by Cllr. A. O' Callaghan.

Cllr. Curtin sought an update on the Draft Memorial Policy & J. Corry advised that same had gone before each of the MDs for consideration as well as to the PPN. He added that he was presently awaiting feedback & that same could then go before the Full Council.

D.M.Wise added that he wanted the Minutes updated to reflect that the Brothers of Charity were represented at the meeting as they had a concern regarding having a pedestrian crossing linking Ashfield Park with the Industrial Estate on the other side of the road.

It was agreed to take Item 6 next

Item 6 – Grants payable under the Domestic Lead Remediation (Financial Assistance) Regulations 2016:-

D. O' Keeffe referred to the report which had been circulated. She advised that the DoECLG had announced a grant scheme to assist householders with the cost of replacing lead in their homes. She went through the details of the scheme indicating that those members of the public who had received notification from their water supplier advising of the presence of lead in their plumbing or who had a cert issued by a laboratory in the previous six months, which indicated that the value of lead in the water supply exceeded the limit of 10mg per litre, could apply for the grant. She further advised that the grant was means tested & that those with a household income less than €50k would be entitled to 80% of the cost of the works subject to a maximum of €4k. She further added that works needed to be carried out by a competent contractor who would need to submit a certificate of completion of the works. D. O' Keeffe advised that 7 letters issued to customers in Clare from Irish Water & that Water Services had issued approx 180 letters to water customers mainly in Ennis advising them to get their water pipes checked. D.M.Wise added that there were instances of lead piping in Ballycasey & Drumgeely in Shannon.

Item 2 – Clare Beach Byelaws 2016:-

Etain McCooey, AO went through the report which had been circulated. She reminded the SPC that they had agreed at the Feb meeting that the draft Bye Laws would go on public display, which they duly did. She advised that two submissions were received, one supporting the continued exemption of Doughmore Beach from bye- laws 15 & 16 ,allowing the walking of dogs & horses on the beach & one requesting that Ballyalla Lake be included in the Bye Laws. She advised that there were no amendments proposed to clauses 15 & 16 which would facilitate dogs & horses to remain on the beach & that Ballyalla Lake would be included in the schedule of beaches. She added that if the SPC agreed that it was now proposed to bring the Bye Laws before the Full Council. D.M. Wise Â questionned if the PPN had been consulted on the Bye Laws & E. McCooey added that they were on public display & that they went before the MD meetings of each of the MDs, which were public meetings. D.M. Wise Â questionned the fact that there was no representation of the disabled on the SPC. A. Haugh suggested that the PPN was the correct forum for any issues re lack of representation of the SPC to be discussed.

Cllr. Slattery queried as to whether the Bye Laws dealt with the issue of surfers accessing the beach in Lahinch & dealing with the no of surfers permitted on the beach. C. McGrath indicated that Clare Co Council enforced the access to the beach by surfers at the northern side of the beach. P. Moroney indicated that following a risk assessment being carried out by Clare Co Council at the beach that they restricted 5 surf school licences to Lahinch with 40 surfers permitted per school.

C. McGrath indicated that all 9 Blue Flag beaches would have lifeguards on weekends from the next weekend and full time from 1st July to the end of the season. She added that the beaches would have surf zones flagged . She also added that the toilets would be open once the blue flag was flying. Cllr. Slattery also raised the matter of signage at the beach in Lahinch advising of areas where signage advising of dangerous swimming areas were nearly covered with sand. C. McGrath advised that additional signage would be put in place.

Cllr. Hillery congratulated CCC on the award of 9 Blue Flags. He queried if overnight camping outside the golf club in Spanish Point was covered by the Bye Laws. It was clarified that parking in this area was not covered by the Beach Bye Laws but was likely covered by roads legislation & could be enforced by the Gardai. Cllr. Hillery asked if fencing in place in the dunes to help stabilise the dunes & allow grass to grow could now be removed as they were damaged & had served their purpose. P. Moroney agreed to look at this.

It was proposed by Cllr. Slattery & seconded by Cllr. Curtin that the Draft Bye Laws would go before the Full Council in June.

Item 3 – New Pay by Weight Regulations:-

P. Moroney referred to the new regulations & the Briefing Note which was circulated to the members. He added that there were two main parts to the regulations:

1. Dealing with companies who collected waste requiring them to have mechanisms on their trucks which allowed waste to be weighed (Pay by Weight) & that this would be enforced by Clare Co Council.

2. Towns with a population of greater than 500 will be required to have a brown bin for their customers. Customers will pay for their waste collection by weight. He added that this system was already in place for anyone who had their waste collected presently & that there would be a facility for waste to be weighed at Civic Amenity centres going forward.

He added that there was a min charge of 11cent per kilo for regular waste & 6cent per kilo for organic waste. He explained that there was a min charge of 2cent per kilo for dry recyclable which was being dropped. A. Haugh clarified that waste collectors would still be able to charge for dry recyclables but this decision eliminated a min charge per kilo. J. Corbett suggested that there needed to be a greater awareness on recycling for the public & that people needed to be helped rather than penalised. He also mentioned the clothes bank at the Gort rd which was strewn with rubbish. P. Moroney indicated that clothes & the recycling of clothes was not covered under the Waste Mgt Act. D.M. Wise raised the issue that waivers were facilitated in Limerick & not in Clare & that this would lead to issues of dumping in the areas surrounding Limerick. P. Moroney advised that there were always issues with illegal dumping on the fringes of large urban centres as well as smaller urban centres throughout the county & that they were trying to deal with the enforcement of this.

Cllr. Curtin commended the presence of Environment at the Ennis Gardening festival.

Item 4 – EPA – Local Authority Performance Assessment Framework:-

P. Moroney indicated that the EPA had developed a new Local Authority Performance Assessment Framework. He added that there were 5 indicators for assessment as follows:

1. Enforcement
2. Waste
3. Water
4. Recyclable Streams
5. Air Quality

He added that Clare Co Council had finished in the highest bracket when assessed for both water & waste. He further added that when published that the report could be circulated to the members.

Item 5 – Feedback from SWMI consultation:-

P. Moroney indicated that the SPC had held a Special Meeting on this matter last December. He added that submissions which had been raised by the SPC were forwarded to the Dept as part of the consultation process. He added that the Department would prepare a detailed document on issues raised as part of the consultation process & that it would be enshrined into the Water Framework Directive 2nd round plans.

Item 7 – Any Other Business:-

D.M.Wise raised again the point that there was no representative on the SPC representing climate change & the disabled. It was again suggested that this matter needed to be raised at PPN and not the SPC as the SPC's had already been constituted.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

**Cllr. Joe Cooney
Chairperson**

Date:

Signed:

**John Corry
Administrative Officer**

Date: