

**Minutes of Meeting of the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee held on Monday
28th May, 2018 at 3:30 pm in the Council Chamber,
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present:

SPC Members

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

Staff of Clare County Council

Ms. C. Kirby, Director of Physical Development
Mr. C. Feeney, S.E., Water Services/Environment
Mr. J. Leahy, S.E., Roads
Mr. J. Corry, A.O. Roads Section.
Mr. William Freney, S.E.E., Environment
Mr. Steve Lahiffe, A/S.E.E., Roads
Ms. Ann Cronin, S.E.E., Road Design
Mr. Pat Lynch, E.E., Roads/Machinery
Ms. B. Greene, A.S.O. Roads Section

Apologies: S. Lenihan, S.E., Cllr. M. Hillery, Martin McMahon

Cllr. Joe Cooney welcomed all to the SPC Meeting and outlined the changes that had taken place and introduced the new people. Carmel Kirby has replaced Anne Haugh as Director of Service. John Leahy has replaced Tom Tiernan. Cyril Feeney has taken over from Sean Lenihan in Environment and Water Services.

Carmel stated that she was delighted to be here and looked forward to working with all in the Physical Development Directorate and looked forward to developing policy.

Item 1 - Confirmation of Minutes of SPC Meeting of 26th February, 2018.

The minutes were proposed by Cllr. A. O'Callaghan and seconded by Joe Corbett.

Matters arising:

- Charging Point in the Council Offices – John Corry confirmed that this has been referred on to our Corporate Services Section and the matter is in hand. He will report back to the next meeting. Cllr. O'Callaghan requested that a rapid one be installed rather than a regular one and John stated that he would bring the observations back.

Item 2 – Guidelines for SPCs re Transparency Code associated with Lobbying:-

John Corry gave a briefing on this item and alerted all to the fact that we need to be conscious of the whole regulation of lobbying. There is a Three-Step Test. Under the Transparency Code an exemption can be provided. This is being examined across the organisation presently and we are inviting feedback from the members on the whole area of publication of the required data if anyone wants to revert back. Cllr. Slattery asked could this be put on for a full Council Meeting for discussion and Carmel agreed that this would be done.

Item 3 – Draft Noise Action Plan 2018:-

Ann Cronin gave a presentation on this. It is currently at public consultation stage and we have to move on to an assessment stage after that. The closing date for submissions is the 22nd June. We will have to finalise the Noise Action Plan after that and more than likely put it before the July Council Meeting for adoption.

J. Higgins asked if the plan is adopted will there be enforcement measures and it was confirmed that at the moment there are very little concerns about noise levels but we will carry out further assessments.

Andrew St. Ledger raised the issue that as part of motorway criteria, native woodlands would be planted and asked would we be looking at this. John Leahy confirmed that if any large motorways are being built in the future, it will be taken into consideration.

Cllr. Curtin queried in relation to a suite of actions, would the Garda Síochána have a role in enforcing the law.

Item 4 – Update on Review of Winter Maintenance Salting Routes:-

John Leahy stated that they are looking at a review and have invited submissions. Closing date for submissions is the 1st June. Cllr. Cooney proposed that if anyone has any concerns, they should send in a submission and it could be discussed at the next SPC meeting. John Leahy stated that they would take on board submissions and they will come back with a final plan to put it before the Council when they have considered the submissions.

Cllr. Crowe stated that at the April meeting of the Council he had a proposal – the plan as it exists at the moment lacks flexibility. He suggested that if the Council were to drop off grit and have a contract with agricultural contractors and have insurance cover it would supplement it at times.

Andrew St. Ledger asked the engineering staff if they looked at the negative impact on the Environment of using all the salt, it being a corrosive substance.

Cllr. Curtin said that in relation to the Regional Routes, West Clare have a third of the Regional Routes and they are restrained by what is in the guidelines – he is asking that regional routes would be duly considered.

John Leahy confirmed that in relation to the extent of the network salted, in Clare we are above the average – 17%. The Area Offices provide support and will continue to do so and there are other measures that we are looking at taking. There are areas where we could extend but we are in a fairly good place with Winter Maintenance in Clare. There are limited resources.

Regarding negative impact, salting is the tried and tested way and the safety of the public is paramount.

Cllr. Cooney complimented all the staff and Pat Lynch, Executive Engineer on the excellent work that was done in March during the severe weather.

Item 5 – Proposed Waste Presentation Bye Laws:-

William Freney gave a presentation on the Draft Waste Presentation Bye Laws which were last revised in 2014. The proposed Bye-Laws are based on an agreed standardised template and include legislation changes introduced since the 2014 Bye Laws. Damon asked about a waiver system. Cllr. O’Callaghan raised the issue of compactors at recycling centres – some of them don’t have a compactor. Cllr. Crowe stated that bin sharing isn’t working and there should be a compulsion on everyone to have a bin. Cllr. Crowe also highlighted that there is no compulsion on

the halting sites and Joe Corbett agreed that there is nothing in the Bye Laws about transient or temporary sites. William responded that the Bye-Laws out-law the unauthorised use of bins. Bin sharing has to be part of these Bye-Laws. He stated that he can't answer for Housing. He confirmed that there are compactors in 3 of our facilities. Cllr. Cooney thanked all the Communities who helped in the Spring Clean Up.

Item 6 – Update on River Basin Management Plan:-

Cyril Feeney gave a presentation on this. Cllr. Curtin welcomed the Senior Engineer and complimented him. He stated that he was delighted that the compliance rate in Clare seems to be on the upper limit.

Protocols for making people aware of breakages: people should be told when the breakages occur. Andrew raised the issue of forestry and stated that it would make a huge difference if buffer zones were introduced into the plantations of native woodland buffers. He was wondering if the Council could liaise with Coillte to implement these simple measures which would have an impact on water quality. He asked the Council if they could give a guarantee that they will liaise with Coillte and come back to the SPC with a report. Funding for fencing has been approved. Cllr. Crowe thanked Cyril for his presentation. Cyril agreed to put the issues to Coillte. He also stated that any issues with water should be directed to Irish Water. He confirmed that we are generating high quality water.

Item 7 – Update on CFRAMS:-

Steve Lahiffe gave an update on this item and it was agreed that they would revert with a further update at the next SPC meeting on 24th September.

Item 8 – Any Other Business:-

- Cllr. Crowe stated that people in the Cratloe/Meelick area have taken to buying their own cameras and wondered can the Council use this evidence but Cyril replied that you could get to Court and get thrown out on a technicality i.e. Authorised Officers.
- Andrew St. Ledger raised the issue of a scenic area of Lough Graney which was set on fire and the result is about 30 or 40 acres of destruction. He requested that the Council put out warnings re lighting fires. It was confirmed that the CFO has put out that message. Cllr. Curtin stated that the CFO has been very vigilant.
- D. M. Wise raised the issue of access to the Clare Campus for bicycles, pedestrians and motorised wheelchairs.
- John Higgins asked re CFRAMS and does the same thing apply under the Mining Act. Cyril replied that all those issues would go through the planning process.
- Next meeting 24th September, 2018

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

**Cllr. Joe Cooney
Chairperson**

Date:

Signed:

**John Corry
Administrative Officer**

Date: