

Minutes of the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 6th June 2023 at 3.30pm

Present:

SPC Members

Cllr John Crowe, Chair
Cllr Joe Cooney
Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy
Cllr Ian Lynch
Cllr Alan O'Callaghan
Mr Damon M. Wise

Staff of Clare County Council

Siobhán McNulty, A/DOS, Physical Dev
John Leahy, SE, Transportation
Seán Lenihan, SE, PMO
Morgan Lahiffe, SE, Climate Action
Adrian Kelly, Chief Fire Officer
Anne Griffin, A/SEO Shannon MD
Liam O'Connor, AO, Transportation
Karen Foley, Environmental Awareness
Phillipa King, Regional Waste Co-ordinator
Valerie Fleming, ASO, Physical
Brendan Flynn, SEE, Environment

Apologies: Padraic Hayes, Theresa O'Donoghue

1. Minutes of Physical Development SPC meeting held on 8th March 2023

The minutes of the Physical Development SPC meeting held on 8th March 2023 were proposed by Cllr Joe Cooney, seconded by Damon M. Wise and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Adrian Kelly, CFO, referred to the National Fire Service Strike Action which is planned to commence in Clare on 13th June 2023.

3. Presentation on Draft National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy

Phillipa King, Regional Waste Co-Ordinator, gave a detailed presentation on the draft *National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy* which is on public display until 5th July 2023.

Damon M. Wise requested copies of the Draft Plan to circulate to his contacts and Phillipa advised that the Plan is accessible online at www.mywaste.ie

Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy asked for a definition of the term 'circular economy' and what is meant by the requirement for "a substantial investment in civic amenity sites for reuse".

Cllr Ian Lynch stated that waste management awareness needs to be addressed with smaller contractors.

Cllr John Crowe referred to a levy on shop owners collected by REPAK and asked if it was possible to secure funding from that levy.

Seán Lenihan added that it can be difficult to find reuse for construction rubble when required.

Phillipa responded that the term 'circular economy' can mean to repair and reuse an item directly; to reuse an item or to repair and reuse an item as something else and effectively means to keep the product in use. The reuse area within a civic amenity site would be an area where citizens could take items that are reusable by others and with no liability to local authorities.

Phillipa confirmed that the Regional Waste Management Office provides significant training to the construction industry regarding waste.

The office is funded by the Department through extended user responsibility schemes which includes the REPAK levy.

4. Presentation on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Champions Programme 2023-2024

Karen Foley, Environmental Awareness Officer, outlined the 17 sustainable development goals which contain 169 targets and have been adopted by 193 UN member states.

The 17 SDGs reflect economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Clare County Council is the only local authority selected to be an SDG Champion.

5. Climate Action Plan Summary Report

Morgan Lahiffe, Climate Action Officer, detailed the contents of the Climate Action Plan Summary Report which was published on Friday, 26th May 2023. The Climate Action Plan must be published by the end of February 2024. The plan will have a 5-year duration and will outline many actions relating to mitigation and adaptation in reducing the impacts of climate

change. The plan is now at stage 1, which is stakeholder engagement, and it is a reserved function to adopt the plan.

Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy welcomed the opportunity for Transition Year students to input to the Climate Action Plan.

6. AOB

The next meeting of the Physical Development SPC is scheduled for 19th September 2023.

Cllr Ian Lynch requested that Siobhán McNulty update him regarding the Blue Flag status of Cappagh, Kilrush and grass cutting. He also asked that topics such as the Roads Programme and Active Travel, for which 48% of the county did not receive any funding, be addressed. Siobhán advised that grass cutting will be commencing in June following 'No Mow May' and she will repond to Cllr Lynch directly regarding Cappagh.

John Leahy advised that the Roads Programme is well underway. He said the NTA focus for Active Travel this year was on larger/urban areas whereas Clare County Council's applications were based on smaller projects, but further applications will be made at year end.

He added that there are resource issues with regard to grass cutting and the focus is currently on approach roads and he clarified that hedge cutting is the responsibility of the landowner.

Cllr Joe Cooney asked if there was any update regarding pilot group water schemes and Siobhán responded that Oireachtas Members were recently asked to seek an update from the Department on this matter.

It was agreed to amend the commencement time of the Physical Development SPC meeting to 2.30pm for the next meeting and subsequent meetings if suitable.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed:

Cllr. John Crowe
Chairperson

Signed:

Liam O'Connor
Administrative Officer

Date: _____