

**Minutes of Meeting of the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee held on Monday  
24<sup>th</sup> September, 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  
Cllr. M. Hillery  
Mr. J. Corbett  
Mr. J. Higgins  
Mr. D. M. Wise  
Mr. M. McMahon

**Staff of Clare County Council**

Ms. C. Kirby, Director of Physical Development  
Ms. L. O'Neill, SEO, Physical Development  
Mr. A. Kelly, C.F.O.  
Mr. S. Lenihan, SE, Project Management Office  
Mr. William Freney, S.E.E., Environment  
Mr. P. Flynn, Chief Veterinary Officer  
Ms. M. O'Neill, SSO, Environment  
Ms. E. McCooey, AO, Environment  
Mr. J. Corry, AO, Roads Section  
Ms. K. Foley, Env. Awareness Officer  
Ms. B. Greene, ASO, Roads Section

Cllr. Joe Cooney welcomed everyone to the SPC Meeting.

**Item 1 - Confirmation of Minutes of SPC Meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.**

The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Christy Curtin and seconded by Joe Corbett.

**Matters arising:**

- Winter Maintenance Salting Routes: Cllr. Curtin queried the salting routes and John Corry informed him that it the Winter Maintenance Plan was agreed by the Members at the September Council meeting & that it would be used for the upcoming winter season.

**Item 2 – Draft Litter Management Plan 2019-2021:-**

- Marie O'Neill, SSO gave an update on this. She stated that the document which had been circulated to all members was a working document. She informed all that if they wanted to make any submissions, they were welcome to do so under within the next 4 weeks.
- Joe Corbett enquired if footage obtained by local Community Groups could be used as evidence in a prosecution. He also stated that clothing banks should be covered under the Plan.
- Cllr. Breen stated that when a culprit is caught, they should be given an on the spot fine, be interviewed by the Council's Litter Department and named and shamed on facebook.
- Cllr. Curtin enquired re Blue Flag Beaches and whether or not the Council had a policy in relation to beach management.
- Martin McMahon raised the issue of biodegradable packaging and stated that we should be the first county to take a lead on this as our seas and rivers are being destroyed.

- Cllr. Hillery asked in relation to marine waste and plastics was there anything that could be done regarding waste coming from ships dumping at sea and being washed up on the Clare coastline.

William Freney, SEE responded to the issues raised as follows:

- He indicated that GDPR changed the rules regarding use of CCTV footage and he indicated that legal advice was being obtained regarding same. He mentioned that there were clothing banks at 54 locations throughout the county some of which were being monitored by CCTV.
- He indicated that on the spot fines were issued in respect of breaches of the Litter Act where evidence was discovered.
- Regarding biodegradables, he indicated that plastic rubbish was an issue worldwide and awareness was the first priority.
- With regard to Blue Flag Beaches, Beach management is in place by Council Wardens patrolling the beaches. Carmel Kirby, Director of Services confirmed that discussions were taking place with the Rural Development Directorate regarding resources for the main tourist season.

Cllr. Cooney thanked Marie and William and complimented the Council on the work they were doing to prevent illegal dumping.

### **Item 3 – Update on Draft Waste Management Bye-Laws, 2018:-**

William Freney, SEE circulated a brief update and indicated that the Bye-Laws were on public display up to 5:00 pm on Friday last. He indicated that Submissions will be assessed and he will revert back to the SPC.

### **Item 4 – Update on projects by the Project Management Office:-**

Sean Lenihan, SE gave an update on the Project Management Office. He informed the meeting that a Project Management Office was set up in May following Tom Tiernan's retirement and the team comprised of Mary Leyden, Grainne Reddan, Steve Lahiffe and himself under Carmel Kirby's Directorship. Sean gave an update on the following projects which he outlined were being progressed under the new PMO: Killaloe By- Pass, Limerick Northern Distributor Road, Blake's Corner, Ennis South Flood Relief Scheme, Greenway Projects, Doolin Pier and Village Master Plan, Coastal and Flooding Works, CFRAMS Flood Risk Management Plans, N85 Re Alignment at Kilnamona, N19 Shannon.

Martin McMahan stated that it was great to see works being carried out to rivers and embankments as they had been neglected for so long. Carmel Kirby confirmed that the River Basin Management Plan was bringing a much more co-ordinated approach in bringing organisations together to deal with rivers.

Cllr Crowe expressed his concerns over the LNDR being a phased project. He added that there would be cars coming off a dual carriageway on to the most rural of roads.

Cllr. Slattery referred to Blakes Corner and he expressed his disappointment at the fact that it would take 4 years to resolve it. He added that that consideration should be given to the backfilling of the steps and he requested that the Council would consider backfilling the steps for the next 4 years. Sean indicated that all options were being explored.

Cllr. Curtin complimented Sean for his optimism and stated that in relation to the Coastal Erosion Programme, it was a great decision by Clare County Council in relation to the specific appointment of an engineer in charge of that. He wanted to make the point strongly that the cost benefit analysis seemed to be working against moving forward. Sean confirmed that he had referred the concern on to the Department with responsibility.

Martin McMahon asked when the new bridge in Killaloe would be in operation and Sean confirmed that the design was to be completed by next July, and that the Council would then be going out to tender and hoping to start works on site by the end of 2019 and to be completed in 2022.

**Item 5 – NOM from the September meeting regarding bio-degradable packaging:-**

Cllr. Crowe stated that he put forward the motion to the September meeting of Clare Co Council and indicated that he got a very good response to it and he complimented the staff of Clare Co Council working in this area. He stated that Clare could lead the way with some initiative regarding bio-degradable packaging waste whether it be a rebate of sorts as he felt that it was the main litter source.

Cllr. Breen asked what the Department of the Environment were doing at National level as he felt the Co. Councils were doing their best. Joe Corbett pointed out that deli counters in shops also sell food so it was wrong to target just fast food outlets. He further added that what he would like to see would be an incentive for businesses to deal effectively with bio-degradable waste such as a rates reduction.

Karen Foley said that she had read the Notice of Motion and as the Environmental Awareness Officer was delighted to see it. In terms of biodegradable waste she explained that The Greener Clare Programme encouraged businesses to partake in this Programme e.g. the Green Fleadh and the Green Festival Programmes for compostable materials. Martin McMahon asked what was the difference between the plastic container and the cardboard one (milk cartons) and why doesn't Clare as a county tackle this.

Carmel Kirby replied that there should already be an incentive in terms of protecting the Environment. She suggested that it was essential to get that message across. She further stated that we are all responsible for our Environment and if you create waste, you are responsible for disposing of it. She mentioned that there was a pilot being undertaken in Kilkee – "Plastic Free Kilkee" which might be worth exploring further and she said she would examine the results of same and revert back to the Members at the next SPC Mtg.

Cllr. Crowe stated maybe there could be a Green Award for food outlets that the Mayor could present to them. He suggested that the Council needed to show more leadership. Cllr. Curtin

stated that one Environmental Awareness Officer was not adequate for the county and suggested that the Environmental Awareness Team be expanded.

Karen Foley stated that there was an acknowledgement scheme being developed for businesses. She also mentioned an initiative in Miltown Malbay – Local Solution to Plastic Pollution .

**Item 6 – Update on the Food Safety Authority (FSAI):-**

Padraic Flynn, Chief Veterinary Officer gave a Presentation on the Food Safety Authority.

Cllr. Cooney & other members of the SPC thanked Padraic for his excellent presentation .Carmel Kirby invited him back to the next meeting to further update the SPC members.

**Item 7 – Fire Service Update:-**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

**Item 8 – Any Other Business:-**

- D. M. Wise Â stated that there was a major crisis for children with disabilities who travelled on busses as he advised that disability funding had been suspended for such travel.
- Cllr. Cooney congratulated Carmel Kirby on Limerick winning the All Ireland Hurling Final.
- Next meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2018.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cllr. Joe Cooney  
Chairperson**

**Date:**

**Signed:**

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**John Corry  
Administrative Officer**

**Date:**