



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### ***Environment and Emergency Services SPC***

***1<sup>st</sup> July, Council Chamber, County Hall, Navan***

#### **Attendees:**

- Cllr. Tommy Reilly (Chair)
- Cllr Francis Deane
- Cllr. Wayne Forde
- Cllr. Claire O'Driscoll
- Cllr. Wayne Harding
- Mr. Tommy Rogers
- Mr. Val Reilly
- Mr Seamus McGee

#### **Apologies:**

- Cllr. Joe Bonner
- Cllr. Eimear Ferguson
- Cllr. Sharon Tolan
- Ms Karen Mahon

#### **Officials:**

- Mr. Kevin Stewart, Director of Services
- Mr. Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer
- Mr. Jarlath Flanagan, Administrative Officer
- Ms Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Engineer
- Ms Bernadine Carey, Senior Staff Officer
- Mr. John Johnston, A/Veterinary Officer

#### **1. Confirmation of Minutes**

- Minutes of the SPC meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Wayne Forde and seconded by Mr. Tommy Rogers

#### **2. To receive a copy of the Chief Executives Report as it relates to Environment and Emergency Services**

- The report was circulated.



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### **3. To receive a presentation on the new Local Authority Environmental Enforcement Performance Framework assessment.**

- Larry Whelan provided a comprehensive report on a new Framework designed by the EPA to measure the environmental enforcement performance of Local Authorities and using information submitted by the LAs as part of the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) process. LW pointed out that the recently published EPA Baseline Enforcement Report aims to provide local and national level data to assist LAs to plan and implement a programme of continuous improvement. The Members noted and welcomed the fact that based on 2014 data Meath County Councils overall assessment was “Above Target” compared to the national average of “Target”.
- Cllr O’Driscoll enquired about the mapping of litter black spots in the County and the use of CCTV. This matter was also requested to be raised by Karen Mahon.
- Larry Whelan advised that the IT Dept were developing a system where all litter related calls logged on the Sugar system could be identified on a map.

### **4. To receive an update on Pay by Weight.**

- Larry Whelan provided an update on the recent
- Cllr Forde noted there was a lot of confusion with senior citizens.
- Mr. Seamus McGee noted that new system should not encourage the burning of waste.
- Cllr O Driscoll noted the buy a bag facility was to cease on the 1<sup>st</sup> July.
- Cllr O Driscoll enquired how enforcement officers would deal with illegal burning outside of core working hours.
- Cllr O Driscoll raised the issue of the fees charged at the Civic Amenity Sites.

### **5. To receive an update on the preparation of Flood Management Maps**

- Fiona Fallon provided an update and advised that it was expected to be an item on the agenda of the September Full Council meeting.

### **6. To consider a Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Gillian O Toole to the June Council meeting in respect of the support for canine neutering & spaying programme in the County.**

- John Johnston, Veterinary Officer provided a report on the Council’s responsibilities and activities with regard to the Control of Dogs Act, Dog Breeding Establishments and Micro Chipping Regulations. The members noted that while there is general support for canine neutering & spaying programmes this is not an area that the Local Authorities have any statutory responsibilities for. It was also noted that Council do provide assistance to some dog charities that promote and implement neutering and spaying programmes.



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### **7. To consider a Notice of Motion submitted by Alan Tobin to the June Council meeting calling for a change of policy in respect of the provision of special dog fouling bins.**

- Larry Whelan advised that having consulted with the operations side that the Council are not in a position to provide the service but did note that the Council will provide specialised bags in prominent areas.

### **8. AOB**

- a. Local Agenda 21
    - i. Bernadine Carry provided an update.
  - b. Civic Amenity Sites Promotion Day
    - i. Details of the new gate fees at Civic Amenity Sites were provided.
    - ii. Cllr O Driscoll welcomed the changes.
    - iii. Details of a promotion day in Navan Civic Amenity on the 16<sup>th</sup> July were also outlined.
  - c. Nuclear Free Zones
    - i. Larry Whelan provided an overview.
    - ii. It was agreed that the matter of subscribing should be raised at the Full Council meeting and the NFLA secretary be invited to the next SPC meeting.
  - d. Bathing Waters – Advertisement for additional areas
    - i. Larry Whelan provided an update and advised that submissions in this regard must be made by the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2016.
  - e. Litter/Waste Initiatives – Keep Cups for Meath
    - i. Bernadine Carry provided an updated.
    - ii. The members were also updated on a proposed dog fouling initiatives in conjunction with Tidy Towns Group.
- Cllr Forde raised concerns in relation to recent discharge into the Boyne River.
  - Seamus MC Gee raised concerns over the appropriate signage at the M3 near Kells.
  - It was agreed to refer the matter to the Transportation SPC.
  - Larry Whelan advised the members of an issues regarding costs been incurred by the Council with regard to litter prosecutions but specifically where in many cases costs significantly exceed the fines imposed by the courts.
  - The members were updated on the Environment Service Indicators for 2015.