



Miontuairiscí/Meeting Minutes

Special Water Services and Environment Meeting 27th June 2011, Council Chamber

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Ann Dillon-Gallagher, presided.

Members Present:

Councillors, Joseph Bonner, Sirena Campbell, William Carey, Shane Cassells, Eugene Cassidy, Jimmy Cudden, Francis Deane, John V Farrelly, Jimmy Fegan, Brian Fitzgerald, Joe Fox, Oliver Fox, Wayne Harding, Noel Leonard, Tracy McElhinney, Niamh McGowan, Gerry O'Connor, Seamus O'Neill, Bryan Reilly, Joe Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Catherine Yore.

Apologies: Jim Holloway, Eoin Holmes, Suzanne Jamal, Nick Killian, Jenny McHugh, Maria Murphy

Officials in Attendance:

Acting County Manager: Brendan McGrath

Directors of Service: Tadhg McDonnell, Fiona Lawless

Meetings Administrator Martin Rogers

Senior Executive Officers: Michael Griffin

Water Services, Environment & Fire Services Staff: Ger Murphy, Gerry Boyle, Gerry Lynn, Pdraig O'Longaigh, Lara Fagan, Declan Grimes, Eugene Farrelly, Michael Fitzsimons, Mary McCarthy, Sandra Doherty, Andrew Fitzpatrick, Sheila Kelly, Margaret Conneely

Administrative Officer: Olive Falsey

The Cathaoirleach opened the meeting and advised Members that there would be a series of presentations on the various services provided. Presentations were then made on the following topics:

- Environment: (Ger Murphy, Gerry Lynn, Lara Fagan & Declan Grimes)
 - Water Quality
 - Waste/Litter Management
 - Climate Change & Energy
- Water Services: (Gerry Boyle)
 - Water Conversation & Planning
 - Water & Waste-water Capital Construction
 - Water & Waste-water Projects & Rural Water
 - Drinking Water, Area Operations.
- Miscellaneous Services: (Ger Murphy & Eugene Farrelly)
 - Derelict Sites
 - Planning issues
 - Burial Grounds
 - Control of Dogs & Horses
 - Veterinary Service etc.
- Fire & Emergency Services: (Pdraig O'Longaigh & Michael Fitzsimons)
 - Fire Service (Operations & Prevention)
 - Civil Defence
 - Major Emergency Planning.

Questions raised in relation to the various presentations were answered by the officials present. Issues raised included the following:



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Environment , Fire & Emergency Issues:

- Water, food, oxygen & energy – legal obligation to ensure that a sustainable environment meets the vital needs of humans
- Since 1970's – EU has been committed to the protection of the environment and ensuring sustainable development
- Irish environmental policy shaped by EU Directives, which are transposed into Irish law.
- Water Framework Directive/River Basin Management Plans/Water Quality – achieving 'good status' (farm inspections, wastewater treatment plants, septic tanks, river surveys etc)
 - Shellfish and Bathing Water Directives
 - Laboratories, monitoring and sampling – comply with EPA licences, ISO accreditation etc
- EC Waste Directive Regulations/Evaluation and Revision of Waste Management Plans
- Landfill Directive (including Basketstown / compliance with EPA permit)
- Current focus on End of Life Vehicles (European Court of Justice cases against Ireland / EPA)
- Waste Collection Permitting – brown-bin roll out for the collection of bio-degradable waste, food waste regulations etc.
- Illegal dumping sites
- Litter prevention and Environmental Awareness activities (beach, CCTV etc.)
- Environment Enforcement and 'risk based' environmental enforcement – annual RMCEI plan, the implementation of which is overseen and audited by the EPA etc.
- Climate Change and Energy – obligation to achieve annual savings in energy costs and reduction in LA carbon footprint
- Air and Noise
- Derelict Sites
- Burial Grounds
- Control of Dogs and Horses / Veterinary Service & miscellaneous animal welfare issues
- Civil Defence / Major Emergency Plan
- Fire Service - Operations & Prevention

Water Services Issues:

- Water is as food (WHO)
- Supply of water to 135,000 residents and 5,000 business – treat wastewater from 110,000 residents and 3,000 business (although now more on basis of 2011 Census, which shows an increase of over 13% in the county's population since 2006 to a level of 184,034)
- Operation & Maintenance of water and wastewater facilities



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- Design Build Operate schemes
- Wastewater Discharge licensing of plants
- Drinking Water Services Unit
- Water Conservation
- Water Services (Capital) Investment Programme
- Greater Dublin Drainage Project
- Rural Water Programme
- Non-domestic metering
- Future of Water Services?

It was agreed that a summary of the issues raised at the meeting would be provided to the Members at the next meeting of the Council in July.

The meeting then concluded.