



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Climate Change ,Environment and Emergency Services SPC

10th March 2020 , Buvinda House

Attendees - Councillors: Cllr. Tom Behan , Cllr Joe Bonner , Cllr. Mike Bray, Cllr Ronan Moore, Cllr David Gilroy , Cllr Gillian Toole

Apologies: Cllr. Eugene Cassidy , Cllr Sharon Keogan

Attendees - Sectoral Representatives: Mr. John Curran , Ms. Karen Mahon, Ms. Riona Gilroy
Apologies:

Officials: Mr. Kevin Stewart, Director of Services , Mr. Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, Ms. Caroline Corrigan, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. David Keyes, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Declan Grimes A/Senior Executive Engineer , Mr. Lorcan Sheehan, Technician, Mr. Peter Olwell ,Technician, Ms. Daniele Monahan, PPN Resource Officer.

In the absence of the SPC Chair, Cllr Cassidy, it was agreed that Cllr Gilroy would chair the meeting

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p>Confirmation of Minutes of Climate Change, Environment and Emergency Services SPC meeting held on 31st October 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes of the meeting were adopted on the proposal of Cllr Tom Behan and seconded by Cllr Mike Bray.
2.	<p>To receive a copy of the Chief Executive’s report presented to the March County Council meeting as it relates to Climate Change, Environment and Emergency Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The members noted the contents of the report.
3.	<p>To receive a presentation from Eirgrid –“Eirgrid Strategy 2020-2025: What it means for Meath.</p> <p>Mark Foley Eirgrid Group Chief Executive and who was accompanied by Pdraig Slyne & Jamie Moore from the Company made the presentation -the points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The background to the Eirgrid company and what its role is Projects as they relate to County Meath

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North South Interconnector 138 km 400kV Overhead Line, the costs associated with same and the choice of technology involved • The East West Interconnector • Grid Infrastructure & Foreign Direct Investment <p>A number of members while acknowledging the need, expressed concern in respect of the Company's handling of the North South Interconnector project and suggesting a lack of adequate engagement with local Communities since the project was first muted.</p> <p>Also suggested that the project as currently planned and involving over grounding of the line would not be acceptable to the local communities and that the lines should be placed underground as is the case in other Countries and not at significant costs.</p> <p>Other issues raised by the members included inability to comply with planning conditions, Meaths Heritage and damage to landscapes, renewable energy incentives & community gains including on small agricultural holdings, offshore and solar developments, wind farms, and the National Climate Action Plan.</p> <p>Mark Foley in response referred to ongoing consultation with local communities in respect of the North South Interconnector project over a considerable period and pointed to both technical and costs issues which prevent the undergrounding of the line. He referred to the need for reliability, interconnectivity to provide more security of supply and avoid difficulty in accessing the cables in the event of technology failure and noting the size and length of the project.</p> <p>Mr. Foley also referred to the national renewable energy targets as set out in the Climate Action Plan and the relationship between the interconnector and any developments arising from wind energy resources. He also referred to funding which may come on stream to enable local communities including domestic, farming and businesses to develop their own energy projects.</p>
4.	<p>To receive a presentation on various actions arising from the Climate Action Strategy and the establishment of the Climate Action Forum.</p> <p>Caroline Corrigan Climate Change Officer delivered the presentation in which she set out the various initiatives being undertaken by the Climate Action Team and in association with the Councils Climate Action Forum and including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Climate Action Leadership Training • Sustainable and Healthy Easting Initiative • Proposed Education and Awareness Initiatives



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Projects for the remainder of 2020 <p>The Members welcomed the presentation and acknowledged the considerable amount of work done by the team to date.</p>
5.	<p>To receive a presentation in respect of the implementation of the Derelict Sites Acts.</p> <p>Declan Grimes and Lorcan Sheenan Derelict Sites Officers made the presentation and in which they set out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Legislation applying to Derelict Sites• The definition of a derelict site and the cross -over with dangerous structures• The duties of the Local Authority and the owner /occupiers of derelict sites.• The inspection system used by MCC in dealing with derelict sites• Photographs of before and after of sites which were subject to enforcement action. <p>The members welcomed the progress being made in this area and acknowledging the issues which prevail including establishment of ownership, lack of funding to carry out.</p>
6.	<p>To receive a report on the Councils environmental inspections programme for 2020 (RMCEI)</p> <p>Larry Whelan distributed a handout in respect of the Environment Departments inspection programme for 2020 and as reflected in the RMCEI report which was submitted to the EPA. It was agreed the members would examine the handout and direct any questions accordingly to the Environment Staff.</p>
7.	<p>AOB</p> <p>N/A</p>