



## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

### Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 , County Hall , Navan.

**Attendees - Councillors:** Cllr. Eugene Cassidy (Chair), Cllr. Tom Behan , Cllr Joe Bonner , Cllr. Mike Bray, Cllr Francis Deane , Cllr David Gilroy , Cllr. Geraldine Keogan Cllr , Ronan Moore, Cllr Gillian Toole ,

**Apologies:** :

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

**Officials:** Larry Whelan, A/Director of Services, Jarlath Flanagan , Administrative Officer, Caroline Corrigan, Senior Executive Engineer, David Keyes, Senior Executive Officer, Declan Grimes, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Michael Fitzsimons , Civil Defence Officer, Bernadine Carry, EE Officer , Alan Callaghan, Assistant Staff Officer, Peter Olwell,

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p><b>Confirmation of Minutes of Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020.</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting were adopted on the proposal of Cllr David Gilroy and seconded by Cllr Tom Behan.</p>
2.	<p><b>To receive a copy of the Chief Executive’s report presented to the June County Council meeting as it relates to Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The contents of the report was noted by the members</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>To receive a report from Meath Civil Defence in respect of their activities during the COVID19 restriction period.</b></p> <p>Michael Fitzsimons, Civil Defence Officer delivered the presentation in which he set out the various activities of the CD during Covid19 restrictions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patient transports to Test Centre for swabs</li> <li>Patient transports to Health Centre for appointments</li> </ul>



## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient transport to hospitals for procedures.</li> <li>• Collection of food donations ( Meath Partnership)</li> <li>• Assistance at IBTS clinics.</li> <li>• Update on the new CD Headquarters &amp; Training Facility.</li> </ul> <p>Michael also acknowledged the passing of their volunteer and colleague Declan Murphy.</p> <p>All the members praised the CD on their work and expressed sympathies on the passing of Declan.</p>
4.	<p><b>To receive a report on Environmental activities during the COVID-19 restriction period.</b></p> <p>The contents of the report was noted by the members</p>
5.	<p><b>To receive a report from the Climate Action : Tree Planting Scheme</b></p> <p>Peter Olwell provided a comprehensive report noting details of the various schemes and the grant aid available.</p> <p>The members welcomed the presentation and acknowledged the benefits of the scheme from a climate change perspective and assisting in the development of woodlands areas and enhancement of communities.</p>
6.	<p><b>To receive a presentation on the proposed extension of the Smokey coal ban in Ashbourne and Laytown Bettystown .</b></p> <p>Declan grimes provided a comprehensive report noting that from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 Ashbourne Town and Environs will become a Smokeless Coal Zone under the Air Pollution Regulation 2020. He also outlined details of restrictions, objectives and benefits of the ban.</p> <p>The contents of the report was noted by the members</p>
7.	<p><b>To receive a report on new grants issued by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Grants for DWWTs (National Inspection Plan)</b></li> <li>• <b>Grants for DWWTs (Prioritised Areas for Action under the RBMP)</b></li> <li>• <b>Grants for DWWTs (High Status Objective Catchment Areas under the RBMP)</b></li> <li>• <b>Grants for Private Water Supplies (Wells)</b></li> </ul> <p>Jarlath Flanagan provided an update on the new grants, noting the increased funding available. Further details are available on <a href="http://www.meath.ie">www.meath.ie</a></p>



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8.	<p>To consider a Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Sharon Tolan in respect of vehicle access to beaches at the June full Council meeting and which by agreement was referred to the SPC for further consideration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>In order to protect public health, and assist with ensuring public health guidelines can be followed, call on Meath County Council to continue to prohibit vehicle access to all Meath beaches, at least until social distancing is no longer advised by public health officials.</i></li></ul> <p>David Keyes provided a comprehensive report addressing the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Beach Management Plan Recommendations.</li><li>Foreshore Bye-Laws 2020 as amended.</li><li>Representations received from the Public during the restricted period.</li><li>Proposals for summer 2020 and longer term.</li></ul> <p>All the Members contributed to a lengthy debate on the various issues associated with the motion.</p> <p>The members agreed that subject to clarification on insurance cover for vehicles on the beach' with a proposal that would facilitate limited parking (10/12spaces) to cater for disabled / age friendly vehicles on the southern side of the main entrance to the beach and that the operation of this approach be monitored over the coming months and considered further at the September SPC meeting.</p>
10.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Karen Mahon queried the inclusion of additional members to the Climate Action Forum (CAF).</p> <p>In response, Cllr. Gilroy as Chair of the Climate Action Forum, indicated that the CAF has a strong leadership role to play in promoting various climate action initiatives at local level and while confined to elected members of the Council and staff did suggest that such initiatives will provide for wider citizen engagement. He also pointed to opportunities for participation as part of the Meath Climate Academy training and awareness events.</p>