



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC

24th September 2020 , County Hall , Navan.

Attendees - Councillors: Cllr. Eugene Cassidy (Chair), Cllr. Tom Behan , Cllr Joe Bonner, Cllr Suzanne Jamal, Cllr. Geraldine Keogan Cllr , Cllr. Gillian Toole , Cllr. Sharon Tolan

Apologies: : Cllr. Mike Bray, Cllr Francis Deane, Cllr. David Gilroy , Cllr. Ronan Moore

Attendees - Sectoral Representatives: 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, Sheila Broderick, Chief Fire Officer, Bernadine Carry, EE Officer ,

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p>Confirmation of Minutes of Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC meeting held on 3rd July 2020.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting were adopted on the proposal of Cllr Tom Behan and seconded by Cllr Geraldine Keogan</p>
2.	<p>To receive a copy of the Chief Executive’s report presented to the September County Council meeting as it relates to Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contents of the report was noted by the members
3.	<p>To receive a presentation in respect of parking proposals at Bettystown Beach</p> <p>David Keyes provided a comprehensive report. He highlighted the measures put in place since the Covid related prohibition was originally imposed in late March – such measures included the provision of a corralled area to facilitate parking for circa 15 disabled / elderly drivers. While some concern was expressed at the meeting about the impact of the prohibition on parking practices in the greater Bettystown area, as well as on local businesses, the general consensus was that the absence of cars on the beach has positively transformed its appearance and is a much safer amenity for all users to enjoy.</p>



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	<p>The members did acknowledge the efforts being made to identify alternative long term parking in the local area and proposals being considered to accommodate Beach Traders next year and agreed to re-visit the matter at the March meeting of the SPC</p> <p>It was also suggested that the Council examine the possibility of designating additional bathing water areas along the coastal area and while Officials pointed to resource and facility requirements for this it was agreed to look at this as part of a National call for additional bathing water beaches which is usually published in the first quarter of each year.</p>
4.	<p>To receive a report from Meath Fire Services – Reducing fires in public or amenity areas.</p> <p>Sheila Broderick provided the members with an overview of the Fire Services.</p> <p>She advised that further details on potential to reduce fires and improve amenities would be provided at the next SPC meeting.</p> <p>All the members acknowledge the excellent services delivered by the Meath Fire Services.</p>
5.	<p>To receive a presentation on Environmental Awareness activities.</p> <p>Bernadine Carry provided a comprehensive report details the various activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waste Action Plan 2020-2025• Brown Bin / Food Waste Recycle Pilot• Bin Standardization Pilot• Commercial Waste Project• Greener Living Guides• Hazardous Waste Campaign• Conscious Cup Campaign• Anti-Dumping Initiative 2020• Stop Food Waste Campaign• Schools Programme - Plastic Free School Pilot Project <p>The members noted the extensive program of environmental awareness been carried out.</p>



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8.	<p>To consider a Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr Alan Tobin at the September Full Council meeting, which by agreement was referred to the SPC for further consideration:</p> <p><i>Call on Meath County Council's Environment Section to insist that ton bags sold in retail outlets like service stations, supermarkets and hardware stores are fully paid for and not sold for a fraction of the actual collection cost. This has led to a large increase in the dumping of bags in hedgerows, beaches and laneways.</i></p> <p>Larry Whelan advised that while the Council have enforcement powers against waste collection companies in respect of non-compliance with these conditions, there are no legislative provisions allowing for intervention with regard to charges being applied for the sale of skip bags.</p> <p>He advised that the Council proposed to engage with the Waste Collectors who provide such skip bags regarding compliance with the applicable conditions of their waste collection permit including having their Company name / Permit number written on the bags as well as their 3 day pick up requirement.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that many hardware stores and building providers sell these bags without any tracing obligations and while the Council cannot intervene in charges being applied, our Inspectors will investigate the extent of such sales and see what measures can be put in place to address the dumping issues associated with such bags.</p>
10.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Karen Mahon raised queries in relation to Boyne Estuary /Greenway : Moyfin Quarry : St Martha's hedgerow.</p> <p>Cllr Gillian Toole circulated a document in relation to Pharmaceutical Residues in Freshwater</p> <p>Cllr Tom Behan made enquires in relation to abandoned vehicles.</p>