



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

### ***Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023, Hybrid Meeting, 9.30am***

**Attendees** - Cllr Eugene Cassidy (Chairperson) , Cllr Joe Bonner , Cllr Tom Behan , Cllr Mike  
**Councillors:** Bray, Cllr Gillian Toole

**Apologies:**

Cllr Geraldine Keogan , Cllr Suzanne Jamal

**Attendees** -  
**Sectoral** John Curran  
**Representatives:**

**Officials:** Dara McGowan, Larry Whelan, Jarlath Flanagan, David Keyes, Mary Darcy,  
Declan Grimes, Barry Quinn

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p><b>Confirmation of Minutes of the Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting were adopted on the proposal of Cllr Bonner and seconded by Cllr Behan</p>
2.	<p><b>To receive a presentation from the Fire Service in respect of Community Fire Safety Initiatives.</b></p> <p>Barry Quinn ( Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer) provided a comprehensive report on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meath County Council Fire &amp; Rescue Service Structure</li> <li>• Development of a Community Fire Safety Policy</li> <li>• Community Fire Safety Objectives</li> <li>• Community Fire Safety Initiative</li> <li>• Targets</li> </ul> <p>The members noted the contents of the presentation and in particular community fire safety initiatives such as the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme , School Safety Talks and the False Alarm Reductions initiatives,</p>

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3.	<p><b>To receive a presentation on the Councils Environmental Inspection Plan for 2023 in compliance with the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI)</b></p> <p><b>Larry Whelan provided a comprehensive report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The framework of environmental inspection targets to be undertaken in order to achieve environmental priorities and outcomes during the coming year,</li> <li>• Identifies the inspections undertaken and the achievement of environmental priorities and outcomes in the previous year, by monitoring the performance against the targets.</li> <li>• RMCEI plan to be submitted to EPA who have a supervisory role in relation to the performance of LAs by the 28<sup>th</sup> February each year</li> <li>• National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs) as determined by working groups focused on achieving environmental outcomes under 4 themes – waste, water, air/noise and governance processes</li> <li>• Each NEP is assessed by the Agency against a set of specified criteria including compliance rates, appropriate site selection, identification and follow through of non-compliances /unauthorized activities and the demonstration of a positive environmental outcome.</li> </ul> <p>The members acknowledged the work carried out by the Environment Team .</p>
4.	<p><b>To receive a presentation on the preparation of a Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 as statutorily required.</b></p> <p>Mary Darcy provided an update noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pathfinder – BusIt2School Project</li> <li>• Phase 2 of the GAA Green Clubs</li> <li>• Update on the 7 SEC's in Meath</li> <li>• Trim Air Quality Project</li> <li>• Climate Action Plan</li> <li>• Community Climate Action Fund</li> </ul> <p>The members noted the contents of the presentation. They acknowledged the work by the Climate Action Team and particular in relation to school's project.</p>

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5.	<p>To receive an update on the preparation of the “<b><i>Draft National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy</i></b>” and the Third Cycle Draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027</p> <p>Larry Whelan briefed the members in relation to :</p> <p><b>Draft National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hugh Coughlin Hugh Coughlan Regional Co-Ordinator Eastern-Midlands Region Waste Management Planning Office will make a presentation to the May meeting of Meath County Council in respect of the draft plan and to our SPC prior to the end of the consultation period.</li></ul> <p><b>Draft Basin Management Plan 2020-2027</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A draft River Basin Management Plan for the period 2020-2027 was launched by the Minister in September 2021 and was subject to extensive public consultation commencing in November and running until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.</li><li>• The consultation process was facilitated by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) and during which 1401 individual submissions were received.</li><li>• It is understood that following review of the submissions, the DHLGH are reviewing and where necessary updating the draft plan with a view to finalization and publication in Q3 or Q4 2023</li></ul>

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6.	<p><b>To receive an update on current coastal projects and other environmental initiatives</b></p> <p><b>David Keyes provided an update:</b></p> <p><b><u>Meath Coastline: Coastal Erosion and Flood Risk Management Study:</u></b></p> <p>This study will assess the vulnerability of our Coastline to coastal erosion and make recommendations on how to mitigate and manage it into the future.</p> <p>RPS have been appointed as consultants and have commenced work on the study which is expected to be completed in Q1 2024</p> <p><b><u>Shared Island Initiative:</u></b></p> <p>Meath County Council in association with the East Border Region are lead authority with Louth , Ards/North Down &amp; Newry &amp; Mourne in a coastal erosion project titled “Exploring Sustainable Nature Based Solutions to Coastal Erosion” and for which funding of €147,000 is being awarded under the Shared Island funding stream . Tender documents are been finalised to engage Consultants with a view to identifying possible natural solutions in each jurisdiction. It is envisaged that funding will then be sought from either the Shared Island or Peace Plus funding streams to carry out any capital projects identified.</p> <p><b><u>Mornington Dunes Co Meath, Visitor Access and Management Plan</u></b></p> <p>The Council are collaborating with National Parks and Wildlife (NPWS) who have appointed Consultants to prepare an overall Management Plan for the dunes system in Mornington and designed to regenerate and protect these dunes from damage being caused by vehicular traffic and sporting clubs using this amenity for training purposes.</p> <p>The Management Plan will examine the current parking situation within the dunes area which are in private ownership and make recommendations to regulate same. The Consultants have commenced work on the preparation of the draft plan and will engage with the local elected members and other stakeholders who wish to make their views known. It is expected that a draft plan will be completed by the end of May</p> <p>The members noted the contents of the presentation. They acknowledged the work in progress and particular in relation to the protection of the dunes.</p>



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Item	Discussion / Action
7.	AOB  None

<b><u>Recommendation to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG)</u></b>
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