



## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

### ***Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Hybrid Meeting, 11.30am***

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

**Apologies:**

Cllr Suzanne Jamal

**Attendees Sectoral Representatives:** - Noel Maguire

**Officials:** Dara McGowan, Larry Whelan, Jarlath Flanagan, David Keyes, Mary Darcy, Bernadine Carry

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> April 2023</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting were adopted on the proposal of Cllr Keogan and seconded by Cllr Bray.</p>
2.	<p><b>To receive a presentation in respect of the preparation of the Climate Action Plan and the Community Climate Action Programme Fund</b></p> <p>Mary Darcy provided a comprehensive report noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key objectives of the Meath Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.</li> <li>• Baseline Emission Inventory</li> <li>• Decarbonizing Zones</li> <li>• Climate Change Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Climate Action Plan Development Stages</li> <li>• Community Climate Action Fund</li> <li>• Support and empower Communities</li> <li>• Projects eligible for funding on Strand 1</li> <li>• Evaluation of Proposals</li> <li>• Key Milestones</li> </ul> <p>The members noted the contents of the presentation. They acknowledged the work by the Climate Action Team.</p>

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<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion / Action</b>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>To receive a presentation in respect of the introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme in accordance with the Separate Collection (Deposit Return Scheme) Regulations 2021</b></p> <p>Bernadine Carry provided a comprehensive report noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) being introduced in Ireland is a circular economy initiative, and a return to retail model, focused on plastic bottles and aluminium/steel cans. The aim is to create a closed loop recycling system, capturing a higher quality of recycling and maximising resource use</li><li>• <a href="#">Legislative regulations</a> for Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme were signed by Minister for the Environment in November 2021</li><li>• Following an application process, DRSI CLG, trading as Re-turn, was appointed as the scheme operator, confirmed on 12 July 2022</li><li>• Explained how the scheme works</li><li>• Benefits of the scheme</li></ul> <p>The members noted the contents of the presentation.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>To receive an update on current environmental initiatives.</b></p> <p>Bernadine Carry provided a comprehensive report noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Green Schools – Seminar, Advice and Assessments</li><li>• Rubbish Film Festival</li><li>• ReLove Fashion</li><li>• Water Fountain Project</li><li>• Single Use Plastic Prevention</li><li>• Green KM</li><li>• Bulky Waste Collections</li><li>• Food Waste Digester</li><li>• Roll out of Brown Bins</li><li>• Green Coast and Blue Flag</li></ul> <p>The members noted the contents of the presentation. They acknowledged the work by the Environmental Education Officer.</p>

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5.	<p><b>To receive a presentation on the new Commercial Waste Regulations 2023</b></p> <p>Larry Whelan provided a comprehensive report noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Legal basis of the new provisions</li><li>• Section 26 of the Circular Economy Act 2020 facilitates the introduction of an incentivised waste charging regime for commercial operators (legislation already in place for household operators)</li><li>• The Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy (NWCPE) a draft of which was on public display until the 5<sup>th</sup> July signals the commitment to implement this measure</li><li>• Introduction of incentivised charging for commercial customers - waste collection companies must ensure that customers are placed on a plan that does not result in higher waste collection charges for commercial customers</li><li>• The obligation to charge on an incentivised basis will be enforced through permit conditions attached to each collectors permit</li><li>• There is no change for packaging waste currently collected under packaging waste legislation, as well as no change proposed for food waste or bio-waste currently collected from commercial premises under the <a href="#">Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009</a></li><li>• Improved waste segregation in the commercial sector can also make a significant contribution to achieving our EU recycling targets. Ireland faces challenging targets under the EU Waste Framework Directive for recycling municipal solid waste (MSW) of 55% by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035. The most recent figures from the EPA show that we achieved a rate of 41% in 2020.</li><li>• It is generally acknowledged that one of the greatest motivators for wider behaviour change is fully incentivised waste charging, whereby the polluter pays based on the volume of waste generated.</li><li>• New measures will result in additional enforcement obligations on local authority staff.</li><li>• The Regional Waste Management Plan Offices are undertaking an extensive awareness campaign on social media, radio and newspapers in respect of the introduction of the measures on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023</li></ul> <p>The members noted the contents of the presentation.</p>

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<b>6.</b>	<p><b>To receive an update on coastal projects.</b></p> <p>David Keyes provided a comprehensive report noting the following:</p> <p><b><u>Dunes Management Mornington</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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. A draft plan to include revised parking arrangements is currently the subject of discussions with landowners and is expected to go on public display shortly.</li><li>• A Project Development Measure funding application under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2023 is being prepared in respect of the procurement of a Technical Team to carry out an environmental assessment and provide a detailed design / specification that will inform a planning application for a boardwalk to run from Mornington to Bettystown through the dunes system.</li></ul> <p><b><u>Shared Island Nature Based Solutions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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. Tenders were invited for Consultants to identify possible natural solutions in each jurisdiction but no expressions of interest were received and we are now looking at a negotiated procedure as provided for in procurement rules.</li></ul> <p><b><u>Coastal Erosion and Flood Risk Management Study</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• With funding of €90,000 provided from the OPW the Council have procured Consultants to carry out a Coastal Erosion and Flood Risk Management Study for the Meath coastline. The Study will identify the locations that are at risk of flooding and erosion and will include recommendations on how they should be addressed. The programme for the study is one year and work has commenced on the study.</li></ul> <p>The members noted the contents of the presentation</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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