

Angela O'Shea

Subject: FW: DJE-MO-08573-2020

Motion No. 159

From: Ministers Office [<mailto:no-reply@cloud.gov.ie>]
Sent: 11 January 2021 11:03
To: Contact User
Subject: DJE-MO-08573-2020

Ms. Honor Dunphy

contact@waterfordcouncil.ie

Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-08573-2020

Dear Ms. Dunphy,

I write to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated 10/12/2020

However, as this matter is more appropriate to the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine. I have referred your correspondence to that Department for appropriate attention.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick McCabe
Private Secretary to the

Minister for Justice

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt

Department of Justice

51 Faiche Stiabhna, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 HK52

Angela O'Shea

Subject: FW: DJE-MO-08572-2020

Motion No. 164

From: Ministers Office [<mailto:no-reply@cloud.gov.ie>]

Sent: Monday 25 January 2021 13:51

To: Contact User

Subject: DJE-MO-08572-2020

Minister's Reference: DJE-MO-08572-2020

Dear Ms. Dunphy,

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 December 2020 on behalf of the Members of Waterford County Council, to the Minister for Justice, Ms. Helen McEntee T.D. regarding parental alienation. The Minister has asked me to reply on her behalf. I would like to apologise for the delay in issuing this reply.

The Minister is aware of the concerns that have been raised in relation to parental alienation as an issue. The issue is complex and given that complexity in order to better inform further discussion, the Minister intends to arrange for research to be carried out by the Department this year.

In the meantime, there have been a number of recent actions by the Department across the area of family justice.

A Family Justice Oversight Group has been established by the Department, and this group will agree a high-level vision and key medium and longer-term objectives for the development of a national family justice system in parallel with the establishment of a dedicated Family Court structure as envisaged by the forthcoming Family Court Bill.

A Family Court Bill is currently being drafted following approval of the General Scheme of the Bill by Government. The Family Court Bill, the enactment of which is a commitment in the Programme for Government, will be a key element in the development of a more efficient and user-friendly family court system that puts families at the centre of its activities, provides access to specialist supports and encourages the use of alternative dispute resolution in family law proceedings.

The development of sensible, comprehensive and sensitive family law procedures, particularly for vulnerable families, will be central to the new system. In the preparation of the General Scheme of the Family Court Bill, account has been taken of the Report of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice and Equality which published its Report on Reform of the Family Law System just a year ago.

On behalf of the Minister, I would like to thank you and the Members of Waterford County Council for your communication in relation to this matter.

I hope this response is of some assistance.

Yours sincerely,



19th January 2021

Ms. Honor Dunphy
Meetings Administrator
Waterford City & County Council
City Hall
The Mall
Co. Waterford

Waterford City and County Council
Received

26 JAN 2021

Corporate Affairs


Your Ref: HD/AOS/M162

Dear Ms. Dunphy,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 10th December 2020 to the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin T.D.

A copy of your correspondence has been forwarded to the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar T.D., for attention.

Yours sincerely,



Mary Timmins
Assistant Private Secretary to the Taoiseach

Telephone: 01-6194000

E-mail: taoiseach@taoiseach.gov.ie



SENATOR
Robbie Gallagher
SEANAD SPOKESPERSON FOR JUSTICE
URLABHRAI DLI AGUS CIRT AN TSEANAID

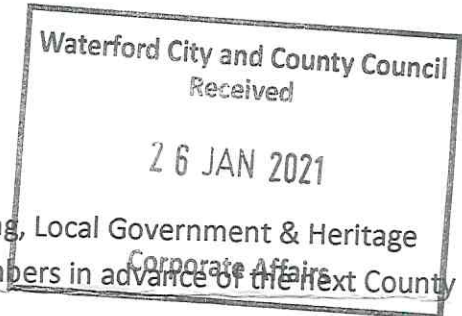


20/01/2021

Dear Meetings Administrator,

I hope this letter finds you well at present.

Please see attached document from Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage Darragh O'Brien, for distribution and circulation to members in advance of the next County Council meeting.



My question to the Minister related to Developer Provider Water Services Infrastructure Resolution Programme (DPI's)

A lot of housing estates have found infrastructural defects in sewage plants and networks up and down the country. This is causing ongoing hardship for owner/residents.

Many thanks for your assistance in this matter, it is very much appreciated.

Best Wishes,

Robbie
Robbie



CAVAN-MONAGHAN



SENATOR
Robbie Gallagher

SEANAD SPOKESPERSON FOR JUSTICE
URLABHRAI DLI AGUS CIRT AN TSEANAID

Monaghan Office,
18 Glaslough Street,
Monaghan, Co. Monaghan.
☎ 047 75050

Seanad Éireann,
Leinster House, Kildare Street,
Dublin 2, Ireland.
☎ 01 618 3087

Carrickmacross Office,
70 Main Street,
Carrickmacross,
Co. Monaghan
☎ 042 966 3876

☎ 086 816 1929
✉ robbie.gallagher@oireachtas.ie
🌐 www.senatorrobbiegallagher.org
📺 /Senator Robbie Gallagher
📱 @SenRobGallagher



Seanad Éireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland. ☎ 01 618 3087
Monaghan Office, 18 Glaslough Street, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan. ☎ 047 75050

Carrickmacross Office, 70 Main Street, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan ☎ 042 966 3876
☎ 086 816 1929
✉ robbie.gallagher@oireachtas.ie
🌐 www.senatorrobbiegallagher.org
📺 /Senator Robbie Gallagher
📱 @SenRobGallagher





18 January 2021.

Senator Robbie Gallagher,
Seanad Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Email: Robbie.Gallagher@oireachtas.ie

RE: HPLG-MOBO-01478-2020

Dear Robbie,

I wish to refer to your email of 15/12/2020, in relation to Developer Provider Water Services Infrastructure Resolution Programme.

On 21 September 2020, I announced allocations under the new multi-annual capital investment programme for the progressive resolution of housing estates with “developer provided water services infrastructure”, to enable the taking in charge of these estates. The announcement followed an independent Expert Panel review of all valid bids. The Panel’s recommendations are based on criteria set out in the Framework document issued to local authorities when requesting bid proposals.

The focus of the first multi-annual programme is on estates in towns and villages where the resolution is to connect their water services to the public networks. The programme will also support a number of pilot projects where connection is not feasible in the immediate future. These pilot projects, together with a major study to be undertaken by Irish Water, will inform future policy on resolving sub-standard developer provided infrastructure with sustainable solutions in such areas. This, the first funding cycle of the new multi-annual programme, runs to the end of 2021.

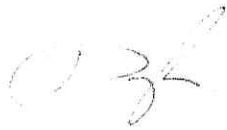
All local authorities that submitted bids were informed about the outcome of their bids in a circular which included a copy of the Expert Panel report on the bids process. The report provides the commentary of the Panel on their evaluation in the case of unsuccessful bids and guidance for the local authority in making future bids in upcoming programmes.

The circular which details the allocations approved to successful local authorities is available on my Department's website at the following link:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/d13f9-circular-ldpi01-2020-approval-of-projects-residential-estates-under-the-developer-provided-water-services-infrastructure-under-the-multi-annual-developer-provided-water-services-infrastructure-resolution-programme-2019-2021/>

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,



Darragh O'Brien, TD,
Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

County Secretary

DM/ZP

7th January, 2021

Re: December 2020 Meeting, Wexford County Council

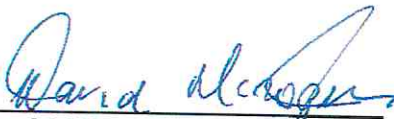
Dear Meeting Administrator,

At the December Meeting of Wexford County Council the Members passed the following motion:

“That this Council calls on the Department of Education and the Higher Education Institutions/ Bodies to offer a rebate scheme to third level students who are charged full rate for on-campus accommodation but are afforded limited access due to Covid restrictions for the Academic Year 2020/2021. Upon passage, this motion is circulated to all Local Authorities.”

It was agreed to send a copy of this motion to all Councils for their support.

Yours sincerely,



David Minogue,
County Secretary & Communications Officer.
e-mail: david.minogue@wexfordcoco.ie
Phone: 053 9196260

Áras an Chontae,
Cnoc na Radharc, Gaillimh.
H91 H6KX.

Áras an Chontae,
Prospect Hill, Galway.
H91 H6KX.

Fón/Phone: (091) 509 000
Facs/Fax: (091) 509 010
Idirion/Web: www.gaillimh.ie
www.galway.ie

@GalwayCoCo
GalwayCounty

Seirbhísí Corparáideacha
Corporate Services
(091) 509 225
corpserv@galwaycoco.ie

Tithíocht
Housing
(091) 509 300
housing@galwaycoco.ie

Timpeallacht & Tréidliacht
Environment & Veterinary
(091) 509 510
environment@galwaycoco.ie

Bóithre, Iompar, Cúrsaí Mara
& Seirbhísí Ginearálta
Roads, Transportation, Marine
& General Services
(091) 509 309
roads@galwaycoco.ie

Acmhainní Daonna
Human Resources
(091) 509 303
hr@galwaycoco.ie

Mótarcháin
Motor Taxation
(091) 509 099
motortax@galwaycoco.ie

Clár na dToghdhóirí
Register of Electors
(091) 509 310
electors@galwaycoco.ie

Seirbhísí Uisce
Water Services
(091) 509 505
water@galwaycoco.ie

Pobal & Fiontar
Community & Enterprise
(091) 509 521
community@galwaycoco.ie

Pleanáil
Planning
(091) 509 308
planning@galwaycoco.ie

Leabharlann
Library
(091) 562 471
info@galwaylibrary.ie



CC1-1a-0025

Our Ref: MO/CD/SE

Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

26th January 2021

TO: EACH LOCAL AUTHORITY

Dear Meetings Administrator,

At the January Plenary Meeting of Galway County Council, the Members passed the following motion:

"That Galway County Council circulate the "Agri Kids Be Farm Safe Presentation" to all 31 Local Authorities and invite each local authority to join in this initiative of Farming Safety and Safety Measures in Council Awareness Programs at a local level".

It was agreed to send a copy of this motion to all Councils.

Mise le Meas


PP **Michael Owens**
Meetings Administrator



ENGAGE, EDUCATE, EMPOWER



**FARM-SAFE
SCHOOLS**



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

AgriKids Engage – Educate, Empower

This summary outlines the following proposals and seek support for same:

1. Farm Safe Schools Programme that is currently in discussion between AgriKids, Agri Aware and the IFA. Based on pilot success the programme will be delivered to primary schools nationwide, where farm safety is a curriculum requirement under Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE).
2. Research project with NUI Galway to conduct research into whether teaching kids about farm safety can change the farm safety 'culture' in the home and/or community.

Considerations: Galway County Council to present deputation via zoom or other platform to the 39 members of Galway County Council.

This proposal would potentially satisfy some objectives outlined by various Strategic Policy Committees where agriculture is included.

1. Farm Safe Schools Programme

Brief Objective

Together, AgriKids, Agri Aware and the Irish Farmers Association (IFA), are compiling a pilot programme that will oversee the delivery of a national farm safety programme in primary schools.

This interactive educational resource will assist teachers in educating their students about the potential dangers associated with farming and agriculture, and is part of a national strategy, aimed at reducing the number of accidents on farms and in the countryside. Additional collaboration and input will be sought from those stakeholders outlined below who can also provide additional content and support.

This programme will be a starting point on communicating the importance of farm and countryside safety to initially both primary and then to secondary level students as part of the current Ag Science module in the Leaving Cert Curriculum.

Engaging children and young adults from an early age on the importance of farm and countryside safety is crucial given the high percentage of farm accidents and fatalities that involve children. Therefore, learning about farm and countryside safety at a young age will allow children to take these important messages and lessons with them for life, and encourage safe practices on the farm into the future.

Modules will be theme based and content created for each class range and will be supported with activities relevant to each theme. All activities are to be logged with evidence showing the completion of each module.

At the end of the programme each school will be asked to make its 'Farm Safety Promise' or 'Farm Safety Pledge' – this is to create the sense of empowerment from the series of activities and to create a duty of care to remain safe and to always remember safety. Completed log books and / or dedicated online logs are to be submitted for review and each school will receive a plaque as accredited of their 'Farm Safe School' status'

Participating schools in the pilot will be asked to share their events and feedback to the programme co-ordinators.

The outcome of this pilot will potentially form the basis in determining the viability of an all-inclusive and interactive farm safety educational programme for primary school children as set out under the requirements of the SPHE curriculum. Participating schools will also be encouraged to create their own activities and asked to share these activities so we may build a bank of resources that can be replicated by schools in the future.

Class Levels

Age Groups:

1. Infants
2. First - third class
3. Fourth – sixth class

Curriculum Links:

- Social, personal and health education (SPHE)
- Social, environmental and scientific education (SESE): Science, Geography
- Language: The lesson plans to be available in both English and Irish.

Calendar Suggestion

February - May

Relevant content suppliers / stakeholders:

- 31 Local Authorities
- Health & Safety Authority (HSA)
- Road Safety Authority (RSA)
- Teagasc
- ESB Networks
- Farm Relief Services (FRS)
- Irish Water Safety (IWS)

Modules and Content:

A series of farm safety themed activities will be designed and made available to each school involved in the pilot:

Module 1 - Machinery & Vehicles

- Tractor safety
- Know the blind spots
- PTO safety
- Quad bike safety
- What machines farmers use
- Tractor checklist

Learning outcomes:

- Tractor Safety (Blind spots, legal age, PTO, Seat and Seatbelt needed for children.)
- Quad Bike Safety (Legal age, Rollovers, their use on Farm)
- Fertilizer/Slurry Spreading (what is fertiliser? Agitation process and dangers)

Module 2 - Animals

- Know the warning signs
- Bulls
- Cows & calves
- Horses
- Zoonoses
- Animal care & wellbeing

Learning outcomes:

- Animal Welfare



- How to approach animals
- Safe Handling Practices (Don't disturb animals, Safe Practices)
- Different Animals and dangers associated with each.

Module 3 - Farm & Fields

- Farm visit checklist
- Know the safety sign meanings
- Farm Yard care
- Slurry safety
- Electricity safety
- Water safety
- Working at heights

Learning outcomes:

- Gates (Safety Around Fences, no trespassing)
- Slurry Pit & other drowning hazards and water dangers.
- Hay Shed/Barn Storage (Stacked high and dangerous don't play in)
- Where does it come from?(burning Fossil Fuels)
- Wind Farms (Renewable energy)
- Powerlines (what are they and why their dangerous)
- Plugs/Sockets etc.
- Emergency Help (999 / 112 and Eircodes)
- Chemical Safety (What are chemicals, Why they are used, Stored away from children / PPE use)

The Outcome

At the end of the programme each school will be asked to make its 'Farm Safety Promise' or 'Farm Safety Pledge' – this is to create the sense of empowerment from the week long activity and to create a sense of duty of care to remain safe and always remember safety. This 'pledge' will be logged in the FSS log book and submitted to be reviewed. Aside from receiving a plaque detailing their participation in the pilot, schools will also benefit in the following ways:

1. Grow the participants awareness to various farm safety issues
2. Permit the children to interact and engage on the topic of farm safety
3. Enrol the help of farming representatives in their area to assist them
4. Allow the children to share their learning outcomes
5. Allow the children to undertake research on the topic

Getting involved in the pilot:

Agri Aware will contact schools to take part in the pilot. Each school will receive the following:

1. Details on each week's theme
2. Details on activities relating to each theme
3. List of useful resources and contacts to assist them

Note: schools who call in outside representatives such as farmers and vets to assist them will be asked to include details of those representatives so a letter can be sent to thank them for taking part and to see if they would be interested in taking part in the future.

Schools will also be encouraged to share ideas and resources so a bank of knowledge can be created that will be accessible to all. This will encourage new and innovative learning and teaching practices to be shared and will keep the farm safety themes consistent and up to date.

2. Research Project with NUI Galway

I have recently been in talks with Denis O'Hora from NUI Galway with regards to conducting research into whether teaching children about farm safety can change the farm safety 'culture' in homes or communities.

“Essentially, the project would whether and how reading the books at school as part of a class will affect safety culture at home and in school. There are a few basic research questions that it would address

- Can kids can be employed as a vector to transmit safety practices into farms via the farm family?
- Can school-based interventions change home culture (there’s evidence of this, but not specific to farming)?
- Are there modifications of the product that would enhance home transmission?
- Are there additional products that might supplement this strategy (the company already sell hi-vis home clothing)?

We believe that children are one way that we get messages about what our community values. We need messages that farming is valued and messages that farming safety is valued.

There’s evidence that social norms are powerful in changing behaviour (“that’s the done thing”) and in preventing behaviour change (“Nobody in their right mind would do that”).

These talks are at a preliminary stage.

About AgriKids – Alma Jordan, Founder

AgriKids is a farm safety educational platform for children which was founded in 2015.

The ethos is to **Engage, Educate and Empower** our children to be farm safety ambassadors. It was founded after 2014, the year Ireland had its worst on record for farm fatalities. Thirty people, perished on farms that year, five of whom were children.

To this end AgriKids has created a suite of resources and services which are designed to create dialogue and interaction on the topic of farm safety in homes, classrooms and within communities all around Ireland.



Sharing the burden of responsibility with farmers on spreading the farm safety message, AgriKids is instilling this knowledge in our children.

Children are passionate and instinctive learners. From work I had done on Green Schools I saw first-hand how children were influencing their parents to create better recycling systems at home. Engaging and educating children on farm safety will encourage them to grow instinctively safer while also empowering them to influence and create dialogue with their parents on the topic.

Using story books, workshops and digital resources, the AgriKids concept is emerging as a leader in farm safety education for children.

During Covid 19 AgriKids has now moved it's workshops to online events reaching in excess of 10,000 children in their homes and classrooms between May and December 2020.



Key success factors

- Signed three year partnership with Zurich Ireland to run farm safety workshops in primary schools and at various events nationally.
- Included in Government report as a recommended farm safety strategy.
- Worked on farm safety initiatives with key partners such as libraries, An Garda Siochana, Teagasc, IFA, ABP Foods and Carbury Group.
- Developed child friendly farm safety newsletter for Teagasc's 20,000 clients
- Developed gaming app on iOS and Android platforms
- Provide farm safety lesson plans and resources online, including white board games
- Wrote and launched three story books and activity book for children
- Partnered with Ulster Bank & HSENI for child centric farm safety initiative at Balmoral Show



Eamon Sheehan 🇮🇪 @eamon_sheehan · Jun 10

Well done to Alma Jordan today on the Zoom @agrikid Farm safety video call. The kids really enjoyed it and learned a lot from it. #FarmSafety #AgriAware #Agrikids.



3

2

22





School Reviews

AgriKids Farm Safety Workshop Evaluation

School Name: Runnamoat N.S. (optional)

Please circle your answer



Activity	No	Some	Yes	Very much
Knowledge & ability of class assessed beforehand? <i>Did the presenter introduce themselves & provide an overview to ascertain knowledge & ability of the group.</i>	1	2	3	4 (5)
Content was relevant to topic and subject matter?	1	2	3	4 (5)
Delivery was appropriate for audience?	1	2	3	4 (5)
Were the tools and props used relevant to the content?	1	2	3	4 (5)
Engagement				
Was there engagement with the children throughout?	1	2	3	4 (5)
Did the children respond favourably & with enthusiasm?	1	2	3	4 (5)
Learning Outcome				
Did the children discuss the workshop content afterwards?	1	2	3	4 (5)
Were the worksheets used that were left behind?	1	2	3	4 (5)
Is there evidence that the message was discussed in their homes?	1	2	3	4 (5)
Can you explain your answer? <i>Parents reported back to class teacher how their child had thoroughly enjoyed almas visit & had informed them of important farm safety messages e.g. do not enter a field with a bull.</i>				
Would you say awareness of farm safety has improved as a result of the workshop?	1	2	3	4 (5)

Excellent

Any additional feedback would be great! 😊

- * This organisation should visit every school in the country. It is equally as important as road safety, especially for children from farming backgrounds.
- * It is reassuring to know the children have had farm safety explained to them by alma.
- * Keep up the good work alma!



AgriKids Farm Safety Workshop Evaluation

School Name: Graelscoil Chuladh an Treoigh (optional)

Please circle your answer 1-5.

Activity	No	Some	Yes	Very much
Knowledge & ability of class assessed beforehand? <i>Did the presenter introduce themselves & provide an overview to ascertain knowledge & ability of the group.</i>	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
Content was relevant to topic and subject matter?	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
Delivery was appropriate for audience?	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
Were the tools and props used relevant to the content?	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
Engagement				
Was there engagement with the children throughout?	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
Did the children respond favourably & with enthusiasm?	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
Learning Outcome				
Did the children discuss the workshop content afterwards?	1	2	3	<u>4</u> 5
Were the worksheets used that were left behind?	1	2	<u>3</u>	4 5
Is there evidence that the message was discussed in their homes?	1	2	<u>3</u>	4 5
Can you explain your answer?	a lot of parents were glad that such a talk was given in school.			
Would you say awareness of farm safety has improved as a result of the workshop?	1	2	<u>3</u>	4 5
Any additional feedback would be great! 😊	I hope so.			

Alma was a great presenter. The children & teacher really enjoyed her presentation.

we hope to see her back again.

Deirdre Seoighe.



AgriKids Farm Safety Workshop Evaluation

School Name: Gowran NS, Co. Kilkenny (optional) Please circle

your answer 1-5.

Activity	No	Some	Yes	Very much	
Knowledge & ability of class assessed beforehand? <i>Did the presenter introduce themselves & provide an overview to ascertain knowledge & ability of the group.</i>	1	2	3	4	5x
Content was relevant to topic and subject matter?	1	2	3	4	5x
Delivery was appropriate for audience?	1	2	3	4	5x
Were the tools and props used relevant to the content?	1	2	3	4	5x
Engagement					
Was there engagement with the children throughout?	1	2	3	4	5x
Did the children respond favourably & with enthusiasm?	1	2	3	4	5x
Learning Outcome					
Did the children discuss the workshop content afterwards?	1	2	3	4	5x
Were the worksheets used that were left behind?	1	2	3x*	4	5
Is there evidence that the message was discussed in their homes?	1	2	3	4x	5
Can you explain your answer? The teachers asked the children to chat to their parents as part of their homework, using the poster you gave them and followed up on parents' reactions the following day.					
Would you say awareness of farm safety has improved as a result of the workshop?	1	2	3	4x	5
Any additional feedback would be great!					
The workshop was excellent – it certainly was among the best we've had in terms of engagement and real relevance to rural children. Your material was so appropriately pitched for each age group and you had their attention from start to finish with your stories and props. Your love of all things farming shone through and the children really appreciated that. Keep up the good work!					
*The poster went down well. The worksheet for the older children is probably best suited to 3 rd and 4 th .					



AgriKids Farm Safety Workshop Evaluation



School Name: DERRYLOUGH (optional)

Please circle your answer 1-5.

Activity	No	Some	Yes	Very much	
Knowledge & ability of class assessed beforehand? <i>Did the presenter introduce themselves & provide an overview to ascertain knowledge & ability of the group.</i>	1	2	3	4	5
Content was relevant to topic and subject matter?	1	2	3	4	5
Delivery was appropriate for audience?	1	2	3	4	5
Were the tools and props used relevant to the content?	1	2	3	4	5
Engagement					
Was there engagement with the children throughout?	1	2	3	4	5
Did the children respond favourably & with enthusiasm?	1	2	3	4	5
Learning Outcome					
Did the children discuss the workshop content afterwards?	1	2	3	4	5
Were the worksheets used that were left behind?	1	2	3	4	5
Is there evidence that the message was discussed in their homes?	1	2	3	4	5
Can you explain your answer?	<p>Class discussion the next morning revealed that the workshop was discussed at home. Text from school to parents following workshop.</p>				
Would you say awareness of farm safety has improved as a result of the workshop?	1	2	3	4	5
Any additional feedback would be great! 😊	<p>Very good workshop. Children were very engaged and it was suited to their age group.</p>				



AgriKids Farm Safety Workshop Evaluation

School Name: St Teresa's NS (optional)

Please circle your answer 1-5.

Activity	No	Some	Yes	Very much
Knowledge & ability of class assessed beforehand? <i>Did the presenter introduce themselves & provide an overview to ascertain knowledge & ability of the group.</i>	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
Content was relevant to topic and subject matter?	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
Delivery was appropriate for audience?	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
Were the tools and props used relevant to the content?	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
Engagement				
Was there engagement with the children throughout?	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
Did the children respond favourably & with enthusiasm?	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
Learning Outcome				
Did the children discuss the workshop content afterwards?	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
Were the worksheets used that were left behind?	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
Is there evidence that the message was discussed in their homes?	1	2	3	<u>4</u> 5
Can you explain your answer? <i>Parents came to compliment us on having you here to talk to the children</i>				
Would you say awareness of farm safety has improved as a result of the workshop?	1	2	3	<u>4</u> - 5
Any additional feedback would be great! 🍌 <i>Alma was a joy to have in our school. She had fantastic engagement with all of the children. It was a very useful exercise - Louise Lavin</i>				





Waterford Area
Partnership Ltd

Waterford Area Partnership Board

Mayor Damien Geoghegan,
Councillors,
Waterford City and County Council

1 February 2021

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

At the meeting between this Board and the WCCC on 15 January 2021, we outlined the plans of the newly constituted Board to deal with the crisis facing the WAP. The Mayor and the Manager of WCCC approved of the membership of the Board and acknowledged its competencies. We requested specific assistance from within the Council staff which we judged would be of the greatest relevance and value.

Following the detailed report of our activities by the Chair, the Manager has responded by questioning the membership, and appears to be seeking the removal, of some members of the Board. He has refused the request of administrative assistance which we requested and has placed novel impediments in our path. For instance, the demand for the establishment of a newly constituted Board was not what was recommended by the Crowe report. The Council, in saying that it has no operational responsibility for WAP, and giving no assistance, but insisting on exercising authority in respect of the Partnership, is being unhelpful and unfair.

On the newly constituted Board, new members outnumber the old members, and all are fully committed to operating openly, collectively, and transparently, and all are focussed on preserving the social inclusion programmes for the benefit of the people of Waterford.

We have the full support of the staff and SIPTU in our efforts and they share our concern with the lack of the promised assistance from WCCC.

We are aware of the deadline of 15 March, and must reiterate that, in relation to the 2019 Annual Financial Statement, the Auditor has requested that we deploy a Financial Controller for sixty hours per week to finalise the work, while we have the service for only three days per week, and the Council has refused our request for help with this. In relation to the demand for progress on putting an interim executive leadership in place, we must point out that the Chief Executive Officer, who is working out his notice and is still on the payroll, is on sick leave for an unspecified period, and we do not have the funds to employ a substitute.

With no apparent regard for the fact that, due to the pandemic, some programmes cannot meet their usual targets, we are specifically threatened that any reduction in service under the SICAP contract may incur reductions in payment. Other services, including the Local Employment Service, are meeting their targets. We are informed by the staff through SIPTU, that, due to the uncertainty of funding introduced by the Council, some suppliers and clients are refusing to cooperate with SICAP.

We have sought urgent meetings with the WWETB and the KCETB in relation to the debt issue. We are encouraged that many of the WAP staff understood that an informal agreement was in place to resolve the issue over an extended period, and we are hopeful that we can formalise such agreements with the ETBs, which seem to be disposed to finding an early resolution to the issue.

What went wrong in WAP was not the fault of the workers, or of the new Board, and the loss of 47 jobs and the loss of the Partnership is too high a price to pay. The problems can be fixed, but WAP needs the resources and the time. The Council appears to be making decisions that close every door to us.

We wish this letter to be included in Council Correspondence for consideration.

We are asking the members of the WCCC whether you are willing to allow Waterford to be the only City or County in Ireland without a Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme, and what Plan B you have to continue the social inclusion strategy if WAP collapses.

Encouraged by the obvious goodwill shown to us at our 15 January meeting, we are asking the WCCC what assistance you are prepared to give to the Board and staff of the Partnership.

Yours sincerely,



TOM CREEDON
Secretary, WAP Board
tocriodain@gmail.com
087-2937829



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

2nd February, 2021

Mr. Tom Creedon,
Secretary,
WAP Board.

Dear Tom,

I refer to your correspondence of February 1st to the Mayor of Waterford City and County Council, Cllr. Damian Geoghegan and to elected Councillors. I am extremely disappointed with the nature of the letter and would vigorously contest the accuracy of your representation of these issues.

WAP is contracted by the Waterford LCDC, which is a subcommittee of the Council, to deliver the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2018-2022 in Waterford and the LCDC has oversight of the implementation of SICAP by WAP. The LCDC and the Council have no role or responsibility for the oversight of governance of WAP which is an independent company. The company and its Board in particular, are responsible for the serious corporate governance issues within the company which have been widely reported in the media in recent weeks.

At the LCDC meeting held on January 14th 2021, it was agreed that WAP should be advised that it must submit the Annual Financial Statement 2019 for the company by close of business on 15th March 2021 and that failure to submit AFS 2019 by that date and failure to satisfy the Council by that date that the serious governance issues are being satisfactorily addressed will give rise to the immediate issue of Notice of Termination of the SICAP Contract by the Council and the LCDC.

At the meeting between representatives of the Board of WAP and the Council on 15 January 2021, the Council requested information on the newly appointed members of the WAP Board; however, the Council did not approve the membership of the Board as we have no function in that regard. It is a matter for the Board to ensure that its members have the appropriate skills and competencies to meet their collective responsibilities under the Companies Acts and other relevant legislation, are in accordance with the Constitution of the Company and abide by the overarching principles of the establishment of Partnership companies generally.

A request by the Board representatives for the secondment of a Council staff member to WAP was declined as this would be an absolute conflict of interest in the circumstances of



Comhairle Cathrach & Contae Phort Láirge
Waterford City & County Council

the Council's contract with the company and particularly so where the continuation of such contract is in extreme jeopardy.

In respect of the allegation that the Council is seeking to exercise authority over the Company, this is simply not true. The Council's role is the oversight of the implementation of SICAP by WAP and this includes ensuring that WAP complies with the terms and conditions of the SICAP contract. The failure to provide an audited AFS for 2019 at this stage means that WAP are not compliant with the SICAP contract. It is also an extremely serious matter for the company and the Board in respect of their legal obligations under Irish law.

We have offered to assist and advise the Board, where appropriate, and we will continue to engage with the Board on these matters. In this respect, I would have referred to the fact that if there is to be a solution, it is my opinion that there will need to a complete change of the Company, both at Board and senior management, if funding authorities, future creditors and the public are to be satisfied that a sustainable future is possible.

This Council must also be mindful of our role as the contracting authority for SICAP and the need to protect the significant public funding which is provided to the Company for the delivery of SICAP. We are also engaging with the Department of Rural and Community Development which provides the funding for SICAP nationally. Our two priorities are to ensure the continuation of the much needed SICAP services in disadvantaged communities and to try to safeguard the jobs of the staff employed by WAP. However the onus is on the board to urgently address the serious corporate governance issues and serious leadership deficits which currently exist as well as addressing the numerous legacy issues that prevail.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Walsh,
Chief Executive
(Designated Public Official under the
Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015)