



Minutes of Environment, Biodiversity & Climate Action SPC Meeting
held on 27th November 2023 – Online Meeting

Present

SPC Members: Cllr. John Hearne (*Chair*), Cllr. Jim Griffin, Cllr. Ger Barron, Cllr. Damien Geoghegan, Cllr. Joanne Bailey, Cllr. Joe Kelly, Cllr. Cristiona Kiely, Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, Mr. Thomas Hogan, Ms. Mary Greene, Ms. Laura Forbes O'Brien

Officials: Ms. Dawn Wallace, S.E.O., Mr. Niall Kane, S.E.E., Ms. Grainne Kennedy, Climate Action Co-Ordinator, Mr. Anthony Russell, A.O., Ms. Siobhán McCarthy, S.O.

Apologies: Ms. Ithel McKenna, Mr. Fergus Galvin, Director of Services, Ms. Ella Ryan, Environmental Awareness Officer

Cllr. Hearne welcomed the members, noted the apologies received and requested a proposer and seconder for the 12th September and 10th October Minutes.

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 12th September 2023

The Minutes of meeting held on 12th September 2023 were proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Bailey and approved.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 10th October 2023

The Minutes of meeting held on 10th October 2023 were proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Bailey and approved.

3. Matters Arising

None.

4. RMCEI EPA Report: D Wallace

D. Wallace provided a briefing paper on the **EPA Report** *Focus on Local Authority Environmental Enforcement performance report 2022* which was published on 14 November. There is now monthly reporting with monthly review meetings attended by F. Galvin, D. Wallace and N. Kane. These meetings are used to review progress against plan and will ensure timely reporting for the next report.

5. Noise Byelaws consultation update: N Kane

Consultation draft is currently with the Communications team for review and the planned go live date is next week. Closing date for submissions will be Mid-January 2024.

A full discussion ensued, and questions were raised on several issues including:

- the contrast between night clubs and outdoor dining.
- noise from late night parties in outdoor areas of public houses
- timings of noise and types of noise in built up areas

6. Climate Action Plan Consultation update: G Kennedy

Draft Climate Action Plan is on the Council's 'Consultation Portal' and there have been four submissions to date. Last date for submission is 15th December 2023. There has been a range of community engagement including schools, council members, council staff, PPN Members and employers from other large organisations. Local communities had been asked to provide space to host consultation events.

Members asked for feedback to be relayed to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications relating to the groups of people who are not able to avail of grants and are unable to afford upgrades.

Members asked that the SPC recommend that the Council re-advertise the Grants Scheme to try and close some of the gaps, within the limits of what money is available. The Energy Booklet is available from the libraries. Council can promote the Schemes and publicise on social media. This can be done on a regular basis. Members requested a workshop to provide information on current energy grant schemes available.

G Kennedy confirmed that all houses constructed after 1986 must have a BER.

7. Motion from Plenary Meeting

The following motion was discussed.

"That the elected members of WCCC recognise the negative impact that the climate crisis is having on our communities. As leaders in our communities we recognise our part in limiting the effects of the climate crisis including reducing the use of single plastics. Therefore, the elected Members of WCCC agree to discontinue the use of any types of plastic posters in future government elections in favour of eco-friendly alternatives that support a circular economy and reduce the negative impact on our environment."

It was noted that the motion could only result in a proposal for a voluntary code which would have to be agreed by all members. A range of ideas relating to reducing the use of posters were discussed, including reusing posters, having posters in designated areas to reduce numbers used.

T Hogan proposed that the SPC wait for Electoral Commission to publish recommendations relating to the use of posters in campaigns. Cllr. Fitzgerald agreed and seconded.

8. Any Other Business

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked about availability of saplings and gloves for community groups. A Russell is the contact for materials for the county and Ella Ryan for the city.

8. Date of next Meeting

D. Wallace proposed the following dates for 2024 -

27/02/24

~~25/06/24~~ (Now cancelled due to elections)

24/09/24

10/12/24

Actions:

Check current wait time for payment of Grants	G Kennedy
Availability of Saplings to Community Groups	A Russell
Feedback on funding upgrades will be relayed to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications	G Kennedy
Liaise with Cllr Barron and organise Climate action plan meeting for Kilmacthomas	G Kennedy
Check grant wait time for energy upgrades.	G Kennedy

Cllr. Hearne thanked the Councillors, Community Representatives and Executive for attending and concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Chair,

Environment, Climate Action & Biodiversity SPC

Date: _____

27/2/24