

Minutes of Meeting of Environment, Recreation & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee held on 30th May, 2018 in the Council Chamber, Galway City Council.

- Presiding:** Cllr Terry O'Flaherty - Chairperson
- Present:** Cllr Padraig Conneely,
Cllr Donal Lyons
Cllr. Cathal O'Conchúir
Mr. Brendan Smyth,
Ms. Eleanor Hough,
Ms. Caroline Stanley
Mr. Simon Heaslip
Mr. Gary McMahon, Acting Director of Services
Mr. Tom Connell, Director of Services
Mr. Stephen Walsh, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent,
Ms. Helen McDonagh, Administrative Officer
Mr. Sean Langan, Acting Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Catherine Jennings, Assistant Staff Officer
Ms. Fiona Griffin, Assistant Staff Officer
- Apologies:** Cllr. Mike Crowe
Cllr. Billy Cameron
Cllr. Colette Connolly
Cllr. Peter Keane
Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Senior Engineer
Ms. Anne Ruane, Administrative Officer

1. Minutes of Meeting held on the 28th February, 2018

On the proposal of Cllr. Donal Lyons, seconded by Mr. Simon Heaslip the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th February, 2018, were agreed and adopted by the members

2. Matters Arising

- Ms. Eleanor Hough stated she received no response from Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees, with regard to her correspondence re the works at Eglinton Canal. She expressed her disappointment that there appeared to be no plan re the management of bio-diversity and wild life.
- Cllr. Donal Lyons asked for an update on the Cemeteries
- Cllr. Padraig Conneely asked what the next step was in relation to the Busking Bye-Laws. He claimed that the last minute changes to the Draft Bye-Laws were badly handled and it should have been referred back to the SPC. He also said it is attracting bad publicity.
- Cllr. Padraig Conneely asked if Galway City Council have any control over rented houses in private estates that are in a bad state. Can they come under Derelict Sites?
- Mr. Brendan Smyth said it was his understanding from the previous SPC meeting that sites would be automatically entered onto the register and then the owner would be contacted.

- In relation to the Busking Bye-Laws Ms. Caroline Stanley asked what is the point asking for submissions when they are just ignored. Cllr. Cathal O’Conchiur agreed with Ms. Stanley.
- Ms. Eleanor Hough asked for a copy of the report on Galway City Waterways
- Cllr. Pdraig Conneely referred to overflowing bins in the City and asked if we could have people on patrol at night.

Mr. Gary McMahan responded to the matters raised as follows:

- All concerns raised and representations made regarding the works on the Eglinton Canal were acknowledged and responded to by Galway City Council. The representations were brought to the attention of the Lough Corrib Trustees when they last met in March, 2018. The Trustees have been advocating works on the Canal for a long time and the general feedback in relation to the works was good.
- In relation to the Galway City Waterways a draft report has been prepared. It is on the agenda for Senior Management Team to consider.
- He clarified that the submissions received re the Busking Bye-Laws were considered; a report was prepared and considered at previous SPC meetings before being referred to the Full Council. The Busking Bye-Laws have been adopted at the Council Meeting; the Minutes will have to be adopted at the next Meeting to be held on the 11th June. Thereafter a work programme will be devised to roll out the Bye-Laws; it may be a few months before they are operational. The Bye-laws cannot be revisited for at least 6 months.
- In relation to Derelict Sites, the procedure followed by the Environment Department is in line with the legislation. Certain procedures must be followed before a site can be entered onto the Derelict Sites Register. There may be some confusion with the Vacant Homes Register and the Derelict Sites Register. A total of 6 sites have been removed from the Derelict Sites Register since February, 2018
- In relation to properties in private estates, there is only a certain amount Galway City Council can do, Mr. McMahan said he would be happy to talk to Cllr. Donal Lyons after the meeting in relation to a specific query he had.
- The Litter Management Unit start work at 5am in the morning, there is also a protocol in place for fine weather as more people descend on the City.

In relation to the Cemeteries query, Mr. Tom Connell responded by saying that Galway City Council originally started with 11 possible sites which has now been narrowed down to 4. Galway City Council is currently meeting with landowners however it is a slow process. They are seeking consent to acquire land. The 4 possible sites are located on Dublin Road, Tuam Road, Monivea and Ragoon. Members will be updated accordingly.

Matters of Accuracy

On a note of accuracy it was agreed to amend the minutes to reflect the following;

Ms. Eleanor Hough referred to page 3 of the previous minutes in relation to parking at cemeteries and clarified her request was that “cycle lanes will not be obstructed”

Ms. Hough said it was stated at the previous SPC meeting that the “Lough Corrib Navigation Trustees operated separately/independently from Galway City Council”

3. Draft Parks, Open Spaces & Beach Bye Laws

Cllr. Terry O’Flaherty referred to submissions. Stephen Walsh clarified that he had requested at the last SPC meeting, that if any members wished to make further comments on the report, they could do so in writing prior to today’s meeting. He received one email from Cllr. Terry O Flaherty.

Mr. Stephen Walsh went through the document commencing at Section 7 (Animals). The following was noted:

- 7(A) The Local Authority reserves the right to designate appropriate areas for horses and where dogs may be let off a leash
- 7 (F) Reference was made to the existing Litter Management Act. Cllr. Terry O’Flaherty proposed that the existing wording be maintained. Mr. Tom Connell agreed.
- 7 (G) – it was agreed to remove as the Bye Laws recognise the Control of Dogs Regulations 1991 and Amendments
- 7(H) – this is to be extended to Garda Siochana, Search and Rescue and Defence Forces
- 8(B) - it was agreed to remove the wording ‘Designated for Protection’
- 8(H) – a discussion took place on whether ‘seaweed’ should be included and it was agreed not to include
- 8(I) – a discussion took place on whether there should be designated areas for fishing in bathing areas and the need for signage in the areas. Windsurfers and Kite surfers were also mentioned and Stephen advised that Kite surfers are under the Dept. Marine. It was agreed to defer this section for discussion at a later date.
- 8(L) - it was agreed to remove ‘barbecues’ from the list.
- 8(N) – it was agreed to remove as it is covered under law.
- 8(O) – discussion was held in relation to Drones and Stephen advised that a Drone comes under Aircraft and the IAA is looking at legislation around Drones.
- 8(S) – reference was made to vans selling ice-cream on the promenade and Stephen advised that this is covered under this section. Reference was also made to the promotion of alcohol and if alcohol related events can be included in this area. This area is to be reviewed.
- 10E – This area needs discussion

It was agreed to defer the remainder of the Draft until the next meeting in September.

4. A.O.B

Mr. Gary McMahon advised the members about “Big Belly” solar bins currently being introduced in the City on a pilot basis.

A copy of the Busking Bye-Laws will be available for members after the Council Meeting of the 11th June, 2018; the document is currently with law agents.

Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty asked if the bathing water results can be posted on the Galway City Council website. Ms. Helen McDonagh advised there is already a link on the website which directs you to the bathing water results.

Ms. Eleanor Hough requested that Biodiversity be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

A copy of the Draft Waste Presentation Bye-Laws with a covering letter was circulated to the remaining SPC members present. Helen McDonagh advised that she would send this documentation to the members that were not currently present.

The meeting concluded at 4.30pm as there was no longer a quorum.