

Minutes of Meeting of Environment, Recreation & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee held on 1st June, 2016 in the Council Chamber, Galway City Council.

Presiding: Cllr Terry O'Flaherty

Present: Cllr Padraig Conneely
Cllr Cathal O'Conchuir
Cllr Colette Connolly
Cllr Donal Lyons
Cllr Billy Cameron
Cllr Mike Crowe
Mr Edwin Brennan
Mr Simon Heaslip

Mr Joe Tansey, Senior Engineer
Ms Helen McDonagh, Administrative Officer
Mr. Stephen Walsh, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent,

Apologies: Cllr. Peter Keane
Ms Eleanor Hough
Mr. Brendan Smith

1. Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. T. O Flaherty & seconded by Cllr. P. Conneely, the Minutes of the Environment, Recreation & Amenity SPC meeting of the 24th February, 2016 were agreed and adopted by the members.

2. Matters arising

Correction to item no 1 "consideration of the minutes of Meeting held on 24th February, 2016" to "consideration of the minutes of Meeting held on 10th December, 2015"

Regarding the masterplans, Cllr. Billy Cameron queried when will a masterplan be finalised for the Plots & the Park in Woodquay. Mr. Joe Tansey replied that there was no funding in place and this work was not included in the work programme. Query also re Arts Development on the Dyke Road. Matter for Corporate Policy Group or for next budget with Galway City Council.

Clarification sought regarding health & safety within the cemeteries. This is an executive function and the SPC is given an update when required.

Proposed new cemetery – Mr. Tansey outlined the difficulty in finding suitable lands within the confines of the city. In the previous two weeks, it has been decided to engage an external design team with the task of sourcing, identifying land, doing a feasibility study and planning options.

3. Terryland Forest Park

Apologies from Mr. Brendan Smith and item deferred.

4. Draft Parks, Open Spaces and Beaches Bye Laws

Following a discussion on the Draft Bye-Laws it was proposed by Cllr. P. Conneely & seconded by Cllr. Billy Cameron that the Draft Parks, Open Spaces and Beaches Bye-Laws be brought to the full Council and from there to go on public display. This was agreed by the members. It was noted that amendments can take place after public consultation.

5. Allotments

Mr. Stephen Walsh advised the members that a site in Kingston is being examined. The members will be kept updated.

6. Masterplans

Mr. Stephen Walsh advised the Consultants have been appointed. Two public consultation events will take place in June. A number of stakeholders have been identified and will be invited to the event via letter. There will be an open forum in the evening for the public to attend. Public notice in paper and media. Dates of events will issue to the SPC members.

7. Waste Management Plan

Mr. Joe Tansey advised the members that the Waste Management legislation provides for the introduction of pay by weight for all domestic waste collection services as and from the 1st July, 2016. The City Council have held meetings with the relevant waste collectors in the City over recent months to ensure the technical systems are in place to provide the service. In major urban areas like Galway where the provision of the domestic bin system is not physically possible the regulations provide for designation of areas, namely addresses/streets, where bags will be acceptable for the presentation of domestic waste. A map of Galway City was circulated to the members and areas referenced in the City are being surveyed and mapped. The Collectors and home owners will be advised accordingly. The criteria for designating a household, single and or/multi unit dwelling, as being only suitable for the collection of household kerbside waste in non-reusable receptacles, such as bags, are as follows:

- No space within the boundary of the property to store 3 bins.
- Physical features which make it difficult to move a bin to the front edge of the property
- The area e.g. street is too narrow for a refuse freighter to access
- Where the Local Authority is notified of exceptional circumstances by a householder/resident and the Local Authority certifies same.

Household waste collectors are required to advise the Local Authority of new applications for bag only customers. A bag collection service is not to be provided to the customer without prior approval from Galway City Council. The waste collectors are required to keep a register of all approved bag customers. Bags will no longer be sold in the shops.

A further update will be given at the next SPC meeting.

8. Report on 'Bathing Water Quality in Ireland'

Mr. Joe Tansey referred to the EPA Bathing Water Quality in Ireland report in particular pages 20, 21 & 29 (previously circulated). Ballyloughane showed better water quality during the 2015 bathing season than in previous years which, if maintained, could possibly see them return to "sufficient" classification in 2016. Remedial works on combined storm overflows to limit their operation have been undertaken. Investigative surveys are to be undertaken to identify misconnections to adjacent streams together with interception/separation of foul discharges. Longer term plans for sewer network upgrades as required from investigative surveys. Upgrade of Mutton Island WWTP is at process proving stage and is due for completion in quarter 2 of 2016. Detailed examination of the Merlin Parks sewers is planned to be complete by quarter 3 of 2017.

Details regarding "bathing water quality results" are published on the Galway City Council website via the following link - www.splash.epa.ie.

9. Busking Policy

Mr. Joe Tansey advised the members that the Busking Policy was still on the City Council agenda for the members to discuss. Cllr. Colette Connolly asked for a copy of the Code of Conduct re the busking to be sent out to her.

10. Dog Services in the City

Mr. Joe Tansey advised the members that Galway City Council provide one Dog Pound and employ one full time Dog Warden. Legal requirement for all dog owners to have a dog licence. The licence can be acquired at the Post Office and the fee is passed onto the Local Authority less an

administration charge. The annual budget is very challenging in that the budget does not meet the demand on the services. Costs relate to staffing, veterinary services, carcass disposal, food stuff, energy, materials and hire. There is a significant increase in dog ownership over the past number of years.

The City Dog Pound has been upgraded to provide a more modern fit for purpose infrastructure. The veterinary services have been procured to cover the additional legal requirements relating to micro chipping dogs as and from 1st April, 2016.

The City Council are developing linkages with MADRA. A draft service level agreement is being prepared and will be entered into with this organisation over the coming months. It is envisaged that this partnership will deliver human resources to allow the Dog Warden work in the community on a more regular basis.

The City Council are examining the potential of dividing the work streams between the management and operation of the dog pound and the dog service in the community. The outsourcing of certain elements may be considered having regard to service demand, recruitment embargo and funding restrictions.

Cllr. Donal Lyons proposed that Galway City Council write to Galway County Council and look for a contribution towards the service in light of the fact that a high number of dogs taken in at the Pound come from the County. Cllr. Cathal O'Conchuir seconded the proposal

A further update on the service will be given at a later date.

11. Recreation and Amenity Capital Projects Update

- **Blackrock Diving Tower**

Public consultation in March extended to 6th May. Next stage is Part 8 under Planning legislation. Scheduled works estimated to take place in 2017. Unable to accept sponsorship of paint etc. due to procurement, health and safety issues.

- **Renmore Roof/Replacement**

Contractor to be appointed. Agreed start date as 15th July, 2016.

- **Sports Capital Projects**

St James GAA – snagging work is near completion.

Cappagh Park – Advertise on tenders on **22/6/2016**. Query re flood lights, not part of the grant. When the grant application is made, can only include items that have planning permission granted. Lighting will require a Part 8 under planning legislation.

Melody Field West Park - Reconstruction of existing soccer pitch, prepared for tenders first week in June.

Chluain Mhuire – Advice being sought on procurement and tendering.

- **Silverstrand Coastal Protection Scheme**

Report compilation is on-going with target date end of June. Environmental studies on-going.

12. AOB

Discussion regarding proposal and submission by Mr. Tom Trill

A submission from Galway Bohemians Soccer Club was circulated to the members. The submission included an executive summary, achievements to date, & requests to the SPC. The members discussed the extent of the improvements sought and enquired as to the cost of the works. There are a range of issues which could be addressed but funding is an issue.

Stephen Walsh queried as to how to prioritise submission requests from different groups. It was agreed that the matter will primarily be a budgetary matter and priority over other projects across the City.

This concluded the business of the meeting.