

## **Minutes of Meeting of Environment, Recreation & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 in the Council Chamber, Galway City Council.**

**Presiding:** Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty, Chairperson

**Present:** Cllr. Pdraig Conneely  
Cllr. Donal Lyons  
Cllr. Cathal O'Conchuir  
Cllr Colette Connolly  
Ms. Caroline Stanley

Mr. Dermot Mahon, A/Director of Services  
Ms. Carmel Kilcoyne, Senior Engineer  
Mr. Stephen Walsh, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent  
Ms. Helen McDonagh, Administrative Officer  
Mr. Paul Batty, Executive Engineer  
Ms. Catherine Jennings, Assistant Staff Officer  
Ms. Louise O'Toole, A/Assistant Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Cllr. Billy Cameron  
Cllr. Mike Crowe  
Mr. Brendan Smyth  
Mr. Simon Heaslip  
Cllr. Peter Keane  
Ms. Eleanor Hough

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty opened the meeting and suggested that due to the number of members not currently present that the Litter Management Plan would be dealt with first. This was agreed by the members present.

### **Draft Litter Management Plan 2018-2022 (LMP)**

The Draft Plan with a covering letter and a report on the submissions received was previously circulated to the members. A presentation was delivered by Ms. C. Kilcoyne Senior Engineer who outlined that it is a legal requirement to have a Litter Management Plan in place and that following a statutory public consultation process six submissions were received.

- 1<sup>st</sup> related to environmental education
- 2<sup>nd</sup> requested more bins throughout the city
- 3<sup>rd</sup> related to litter/dog fouling signage/CCTV
- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> related to the Ballybane area and referred to CCTV/IBAL/Bins
- 6<sup>th</sup> requested more bins and CCTV

Ms. Kilcoyne responded as follows regarding the submissions received

- 1<sup>st</sup> - the contents were already included in the draft.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> – There will be an introduction of Smart Bins throughout the City which will be more efficient and will reduce overall costs in the long run.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – the signage has been installed in the location referred to in the submission and further signage will be installed throughout the City.
- Submissions 4 and 5 are issues which will be addressed with the adoption of the Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-laws. Awareness and enforcement will be important, there is no plans to install Smart Bins at the moment in Ballybane but this reviewed in the future.
- 6<sup>th</sup> - CCTV will be rolled out in certain locations. Galway City Council are targeting black spots. It is planned to launch a “leave no trace” campaign in the summer.

The Draft Litter Management Plan was amended following receipt of the submissions.

Ms. C. Stanley stated there is a need for CCTV cameras in various locations. She referred to the low number of prosecutions. She also referred to the number of dog fouling bags left at Merlin Woods and outlined the need for bins at the entrance to the woods. Cllr. T. O’Flaherty referred to page 10 of the Draft LMP and requested that the Solar Bins be rolled out in Ballyloughane and Silverstrand. She also referred to the Clean Ups Days recently held in Ballybane. She complimented the Litter Management Unit on doing a great job. Cllr. D. Lyons queried why bins have been removed from the Prom and referred to the success of CCTV at the bottle banks when they were present and raised the issue of dog fouling on the prom.

Cllr. C. Connolly raised concerns re the delivery of CCTV and said we need to look at other ways such as draw down funding for large clean-ups and referred to the number of dog and litter fines being issued as low. Once a year for hazardous waste collection is not enough. She requested that residents be notified in advance of street sweeping and the need for visual dog fouling signage and requested more bins to dispose of dog waste. She said that the Bulky Goods Service needs to be advertised more.

Mr. Mahon responded as follows:

- Environment awareness campaigns are ongoing. In 2017 and 2018 awareness leaflets were delivered to all householders in the City promoting awareness of Environmental services including a Bulky Goods Collection service provided by Galway City Council.
- Awareness campaigns re the Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-laws will be rolled out this year.
- There are 30 actions in Action Plan and CCTV is included
- Focusing on litter and committed to CCTV in litter blackspots
- CCTV wont resolve all issues and there is need for resources
- Need bins in right locations and Smart Bins are being rolled out soon

Ms. Kilcoyne advised as follows:

- Tendering process has been completed for the purchase and maintenance of the Smart Bins 50 bins will be installed for the summer and the prom is included. There are no plans to remove bins from the prom.
- Dog Fouling – Galway City Council is working with the Dog Trust on the campaign called the ‘Big Scoop’.
- There will be a “leave no trace” campaign rolled out in 2019. 50 signs with art work being rolled out
- People need to take responsibility and dispose of waste in a correct manner.

- The queries regarding solar bins at Ballyloughane and Silverstrand will be brought to the attention of the Engineer responsible for the Litter Management Unit for his consideration.
- The use of the service for Bulky Goods has increased over the last number of years due to advertising of the scheme.
- Street sweeping does not include the gullies as this comes under the T&I section.
- It is planned to have a one day collection of hazardous waste. The City Council are currently looking for a suitable site for this one day collection and will have an update at next meeting.

***The Draft Litter Management Plan 2018 -2022 was proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons, seconded by Cllr. T. O' Flaherty and agreed by the members to proceed to full Council for their consideration.***

## **Litter Fines**

A report on Litter Fines dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2019 was previously circulated to the members. The report contained a number of headings, including the law in relation to Litter, Galway City Bye-Laws and statistics on Litter fines. The members raised the following issues:

- How many of the 209 number fines were paid
- Low level of prosecutions
- Figures relating to enforcement costs in relation to litter and dog fouling fines
- The use of ticker tape at events in the city
- The use and height of signage boards in the city

Mr. Mahon responded stated that legal costs vary from case to case and 50% of fines in 2018 were paid by the end of that year. He stated that Court Services have responsibility for collect monies following court cases. Ms. Kilcoyne further added that reminders re Litter Fines issue within one month; cases must be brought to court within 6 months of issue of the fine (Litter Pollution Act 1997); can be difficult to establish who the offender is and the address of the offender and in many cases the offender has moved address; dog fouling fines are difficult to prosecute as it can be difficult to establish the details of the owner. She agreed to support the banning of ticker tape at events and adopt this in Recreation and Amenity for small events and request planning to do the same for large event licences

## **Minutes of meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

The minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> November were proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons, seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and adopted by members. Cllr. T. O Flaherty offered her condolences on behalf of the members to Mr. S. Heaslip on the passing of his uncle.

## **Matters Arising**

Ms. C. Stanley spoke on behalf of Ms. E. Hough (who was absent from the meeting) and referred to page 6 of the minutes. She wanted it noted that the Galway Environmental group has already been set up. Cllr. T. O'Flaherty asked who can check illegal dumped bags for evidence and it was advised that only Authorised Council staff can go through the bags. Only Authorised Officers can present the evidence found in Court. Cllr. T. O'Flaherty referred to the Blue Flag at Ballyloughane and advised that the results are the same as Grattan and asked if the flag can be removed before June. Cllr. D. Lyons requested an update on Capital Projects including the cemetery development.

Ms. C. Kilcoyne updated as follows;

- Extension of Ragoon cemetery has gone to Part 8 Planning and will be presented at the main Council Meeting in April.
- Bohermore Cemetery is full and is not accepting any new burials except in existing plots.
- Work is still ongoing to identify a site for a new Cemetery that can be provided with infrastructure such as parking, lighting, public transport, and accessibility.

Cllr. **Cathal O' Conchuir** outlined the need for a crematorium in Galway and suggested a green area for scattering ashes similar to Dublin. Cllr. T. O'Flaherty requested an update re the cemetery development at the next SPC meeting to be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> May.

## **Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CRAMS)**

Ms. Carmel Kilcoyne provided a presentation in relation to CRAMS which was circulated to the members.

Cllr. D. Lyons referred to a number of items as follows:

- Raised concerns in relation to the rock armour at Salthill which was breached in a storm last year
- Requested reverse valves for Lenaboy Avenue to alleviate water coming up through the sewers
- Protected views from Silverstrand must be protected as per the Development Plan
- Suggested the use of mobile barriers which could be installed quickly in the areas of Leisureland and Toft Park
- Acknowledged Minister Boxer Moran for delivering on commitment made

Cllr. O' Conchuir made the following comments:

- Great plan but feels no flood defences will keep the sea out and referred to the location of where houses were built along by the river Corrib and made reference to the UK and the Rhine
- Claddagh basin flooded as the boom channelled the water in that direction

Ms. C. Stanley made the following comments:

- Need to look at the County and City together when dealing with flood defences as a barrier in one area may result in another area being flooded
- Need to look at green management (sustainable urban drainage systems) as it is being used across the globe and is very effective in slowing the flow of water in rivers.

Ms. C. Kilcoyne responded to the comments as follows:

- The CFRAMS is at study stage and will take account of climate change
- Issue at Lenaboy Avenue is on the minor works programme with the OPW
- Aware of the protected views and are linking with Public Realm Strategy.
- Will consider type of barriers both fixed and mobile and advised nothing is designed yet
- Aqua dam has been very effective and has protected the City from five storms
- Green Management (SUDS) will be considered
- Advised that the OPW have national responsibility and that all plans were done up by waterway rather than by Local Authority. For example the main plan that effects Galway City is the Corrib which includes other areas with in Galway County that are in the Corrib Catchment
- Aware of issues relating to rock armour and that the Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) must be considered

## **Masterplans**

Mr. S. Walsh Senior Executive Parks Superintendent provided an update as follows:

Circulated a list of Capital Projects which outlined the status of each of the projects and also circulated a list of 2019 Policy Projects and requested the members to submit a shortlist of works in order of priority. However, the members requested that Mr. Walsh prioritise the projects and to revert to the members.

Mr. Walsh noted that Biodiversity Plan runs to 2024; that the Draft Parks, Open Spaces and Beach Bye-Laws have been referred to Blake and Kenny Solicitors and that Galway City Council have applied for the Green Flag award for Millennium Park managed by An Taisce for 2019.

Cllr. Lyons made the following comments:

He referred to the outer ring road and lands currently zoned recreation and amenity which are owned by the Council and will form part of the new ring road. His concern was over the potential loss of recreation and amenity lands. Mr. Walsh advised that while a large area is earmarked for the proposed ring road, only a small portion may be taken when the final arbitration process is completed.

Ms. C. Stanley requested an update on Terryland and Merlin Woods masterplans and if they were going to be carried out together. Mr. Walsh advised that they will advertised individually.

## **A. O. B**

### **Busking Bye Laws**

It was noted that the closing date for submissions is Friday 8th March, 2019 and that the matter will be discussed at the next SPC meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019.

Ms. C. Stanley requested that we prioritise the climate change and sustainability item at the next meeting.

### **Meeting concluded.**

Meeting concluded at 4.10pm. Items No. 7 and 8 were deferred until the next the meeting due to the lack of a quorum and the Busking Bye Laws are to be included also on the Agenda.