

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment, Recreation & Amenity
Strategic Policy Committee held on 1st May 2019 in the Council Chamber,
Galway City Council.**

Presiding: Cllr. T. O'Flaherty - Chairperson

Present: Cllr. D. Lyons
Cllr. C. O'Conchuir
Cllr. C. Connolly
Cllr. P. Keane
Mr. S. Heaslip
Ms. E. Hough
Ms. C. Stanley
Mr. B. Smyth

Mr. D. Mahon, A/Director of Services
Ms. C. Kilcoyne, Senior Engineer
Mr. D. Healy, Staff Officer
Mr. P. Batty, Executive Engineer
Mr. D. Redington, Executive Engineer
Ms. C. Jennings, Assistant Staff Officer
Ms. L. O'Toole, A/Assistant Staff Officer
Ms. S. Ní Mhainín Waste Prevention & Resource Efficiency Officer Western Region

Apologies: Cllr. B. Cameron and Cllr. MJ Crowe

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 27th February 2019

On the proposal of Cllr. T. O Flaherty, seconded by Cllr. C. Connolly the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 27th February 2019 were agreed and adopted by the members.

2. Matters Arising

Updates on the following issues were requested:

CCTV, proposals for new crematorium, cleaning of gully's at Lenaboy Avenue, the Draft Parks, Open Spaces and Beach Bye-laws , Solar Bins for Ballyloughane and Silverstrand, A ban on ticker tape at festivals, flood risk and flood walls in coastal areas, Kingston and Southpark Masterplans.

Mr. D. Mahon, Ms. C. Kilcoyne and Mr. D. Redington responded to matters arising from members as follows: Report has circulated in relation to Southpark and Kingston Masterplans. Progress on Kingston is not specifically linked to further land acquisition and there will be a further update to the SPC in 2019. The Draft Parks, Open Spaces and Beach Bye-laws are with Galway City Council's solicitors and are currently being finalised. It is anticipated that they will go before full Council later in 2019. In relation to a crematorium, a report will go to full Council re preferred locations for a new cemetery in July. Organisers of events are advised not to use ticker tape. The locations of CCTV were advised, Dyke Road, Western Distributor Road and Westside (temporary measure). Other areas are being identified however, it was pointed out that there is a significant cost with the installation and monitoring of the

CCTV. Ballyloughane and Silverstrand locations will be considered in the future with regard to the installation of solar bins. Cigarette bin at Whitehall Close was removed by Eyre Square Shopping Centre. Being followed up by the Community Warden.

It was proposed by Cllr. T. O Flaherty, seconded by Cllr. P. Keane and agreed by the members to move to item no. 5 on the Agenda and revert to item no 3 thereafter.

5. Draft Street Performance and Busking Bye Laws

Mr. D. Mahon presented the Draft Street Performance and Busking Bye Laws and noted the report on submissions received following the statutory consultation process. A formal public consultation process commenced in January 2019 in relation to the Draft Street Performance and Busking Bye-Laws 2019. A copy of the draft Bye-Laws was available for inspection on-line or from the offices of Galway City Council from 31st January to 1st March 2019. Notification was also issued to relevant and appropriate stakeholders in the City and an on-line system to accept and collate submissions was established. Written submissions in relation to the Draft Bye-Laws were accepted up to 8th March 2019. 262 submissions were received and summarised in the report attached.

The Draft Street Performance and Busking Bye-Laws 2019 include the amendments to the previous Draft agreed by the Council members at the Council Meeting held on the 14th May 2018 and other technical amendments as recommended by the Council's legal advisor. No amendments to the Draft were proposed following the consultation period. A discussion took place in relation to the Draft Bye-Laws and the following was noted:

- Draft Bye-Laws went back on public display in January 2019 following legal advice
- Public consultation process. 262 submissions were received and outlined in the report issued to SPC members
- The main concerns were in relation to amplification and minors under the age of 16 being accompanied by a guardian
- Gardai require the Busking Bye-Laws for enforcement purposes.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Keane and seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty it was agreed that the Draft Bye Laws, as presented to the SPC, go to full Council for consideration without amendment. It was noted that the Draft Bye-Laws will go before Council at the July Meeting at the earliest.

3. Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 - 2024

Mr. P. Batty delivered a presentation in relation to the draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and outlined the next steps in the Local Adaption Strategy. Galway City Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 (the Adaptation Strategy) will set out strategic priorities, measures and responses for adaptation for Galway City Council over the next five years; as required by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.

The Draft Adaptation Strategy is in the process of being prepared and there is a requirement for the Strategy to be adopted by the Council by the end of September 2019, with a public consultation on the draft Strategy in June 2019. A preliminary draft of the Strategy was presented at the SPC. The approach to the development of the Adaptation Strategy follows a five-step process provided for within the Local Authority Adaptation Strategy Development Guidelines (DCCAE, 2018). The format of the document is based on a template document developed by the North Atlantic Seaboard Climate Action Regional Office. Mr. Batty outlined the process, as follows;

- Step 1. ESTABLISH ADAPTATION TEAM
- GCC established an Adaptation Team in December 2018
- Step 2. USE RECENT WEATHER EXTREMES AND PERIODS OF CLIMATE VARIABILITY TO ESTABLISH A BASELINE
- GCC held two workshops (Dec 18 & Jan 19)
 - Baseline presents 97 nr impacts experienced during past extreme climate events.
- Step 3. IDENTIFY FUTURE CLIMATE RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES
- Risk and Opportunity Statements completed and matched with adaptation actions.
 - 75 nr Risk and Opportunity Statements have been compiled.
- Step 4. IDENTIFY ADAPTATION ACTIONS TO GUARD AGAINST IDENTIFIED RISKS AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES
- A Preliminary Draft List of 67 nr Adaptation Actions have been identified.
- Step 5. PREPARE A DRAFT STRATEGY INCORPORATING BASELINE, RISKS AND ACTIONS
- PRESENT TO SPC – ENVIRONMENT – May 2019
 - PRESENT TO ELECTED MEMBERS – May 2019
 - CARRY OUT SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT & GRAPHIC DESIGN
 - PUBLIC CONSULTATION – June 2019
 - PRESENT TO ELECTED MEMBERS FOR ADOPTION – September 2019
 - SUBMIT TO GOVERNMENT FOR APPROVAL – 30th September 2019

Members raised the following matters; The need for a Tree strategy/policy and the inclusion of same in the Development Plan, an early weather warning system, alternative energy sources, a Biodiversity officer for Galway City Council, request for Galway Environment Network to be included in the consultation pre-draft stage in order to get the best document for the city, costing measures and likelihood of flood barriers i.e. steel gates at Nimmo’s Pier and the level of fines Ireland are facing in relation to climate change.

Mr. D. Mahon, Ms. C. Kilcoyne and Mr. P. Batty responded to concerns raised by members as follows: The document is a draft, there will be public consultation, and there will be an opportunity to submit observations; the document must be adopted at the Council September meeting and the SPC may not get the opportunity to meet before then; there is a mapping system in relation to weather warning whereby Met Eireann give colour coded warnings; Galway City Council are in the process of employing a Tree Officer and awaiting approval to recruit a Biodiversity Officer; in relation to CFRAM’s Galway City Council has funding approval of €1m-€15m, a Steering Group has recently been set up and a ‘Wave Study’ has gone out to tender and a Senior Executive Engineer will be leading this project; A Tree Policy is currently being drafted.

It was agreed by the SPC Members to proceed as outlined by Mr. Batty and commence the public consultation process in advance and consideration of the draft by Council at the September Meeting.

4. “mywaste.ie”

Ms. S. Ní Mhainnín Waste Prevention & Resource Efficiency Officer Western Region delivered a presentation on the new website titled “mywaste.ie” - Ireland's official guide to managing waste. Ms. Ní Mhainnín noted that users can browse this site for local waste services, recycling facilities, information on preventing waste, reuse and upcycle. This initiative was facilitated by the Regional Waste Management Offices on behalf of the Department of Climate Action, Communications and the Environment.

The following matters were noted: Waste Segregation Bye-Laws are being progressed in each Local Authority. More public awareness and education in schools in relation to recycling policies, the need to re-introduce bin inspections and ban one off plastics.

Cllr. O' Flaherty and members thanks Ms. Ní Mhainnín for the informative presentation.

6. Terryland Forest Park

Ms. Kilcoyne provided an update on Terryland Forest Park and a general discussion took place. It was noted that a Management Plan is being prepared and will be completed before the end of 2019; The Steering Group Committee will be revived and Ms. C. Stanley expressed an interest in being part of the committee; there are currently two staff designated to Terryland Park with a third due to start who will also be working on other Forest Parks; a request for additional bins and seating was made and Mr. B. Smyth offered to assist with painting of seating; Cllr. D. Lyons complimented Mr. Smyth for the great work he does in Terryland.

7. Recreation and Amenity Needs Study 2019

Ms. C. Kilcoyne provided a short update on the Recreation & Amenity Needs Study and its overall purpose and objectives. Ms. Kilcoyne requested feedback on the document from the members. A discussion took place in relation to the document circulated and the following was noted: this study will be an updated version of the 2008 plan which was a ten year plan and was prepared by Consultants, pollinator plants are being considered and a range of funding sources will be considered.

8. AOB

Cllr. T. O'Flaherty, on behalf of the SPC members, thanked staff in Galway City Council past and present and the members of the SPC for all of the hard work carried out during the term of the SPC committee. Cllr. O'Flaherty expressed her gratitude to the Directors of Services who served the SPC over the past 5 years gave a special thanks to Ms. H. McDonagh and to all members who turned up and stayed at meetings throughout the term of the committee. Mr. D. Mahon acknowledged the work of Cllr. O'Flaherty as Chair of the SPC and also acknowledged her work with the Corporate Policy Group.

A report was requested on Canals and Waterways 'conditional assessment report' for 2018 and 2019 to be brought before the SPC.

The suspension of the "cash for cans" initiative. Mr. D. Mahon advised that this is under review as there are a range of issues to be dealt with. He advised that the outcome of the review will be notified to members.

Members were advised of plans for a hazardous waste collection for paint/aerosols scheduled for early June which will be advertised once finalised. As there is a budget of only €40,000 this will only facilitate one date for disposal. There is a licenced facility in Tuam which accepts hazardous waste.

Meeting concluded.