

**Minutes of meeting Climate Action, Environment, Recreation & Amenity
Strategic Policy Committee held on Wednesday the 24th May 2023 via
Microsoft Teams & in Council Chamber, City Hall, College Road, Galway.**

Presiding: Cllr. M. O'Connor

Present: Cllr. D. Lyons, Cllr. D McDonnell, Cllr. T O'Flaherty, Cllr. N Murphy, Cllr. J. Connolly, Cllr. A. Curran, Ms. E. Hough, Ms. C .Stanley, Ms. S. Connolly, Senior Engineer, Mr. U. Finn, Senior Engineer, Mr. D. Redington, Senior Executive Engineer, Ms. S. Carroll, Executive Engineer, Mr. M. Headd, Administrative Officer, Ms. M. O'Leary, Environment Enforcement Officer, Mr. J. Craughwell, Local Sports Partnership Co-Ordinator, , Ms. M. Collins, Staff Officer, Ms. C. Jennings, Assistant Staff Officer, Ms. P. Fahy, Assistant Staff Officer, Mr. K. Swift, Regional Waste Coordinator, Ms. Layla Hein, Mr. Colm Hickey, Mr. Adrian Allkin and Mr. David McCarthy Members of St. Nicholas Traders Committee

Absent/Apologies: Mr. C. Ryan, Mr. P. Greene, Cllr. C. Conolly and Mr. B.Smyth

Mr. K. Swift, Waste Management Plan - Presentation

The members raised the following issues:

- The need for stronger legislation to deal with non-compliance.
- Happy that the plan is national and not just regional.
- The producers of single use products should be targeted, and deposit return schemes should be introduced.
- The importance of providing information in adverts published and public consultation process.

Mr. K Swift responded to issued raised as follows:

- Legislation is currently in place and powers under the current Bye Laws.
- Changes are being introduced to deal with packaging with licenced events by Local Authorities not permitted to use single use items and the deposit return schemes are returning.
- Mywaste.ie has all information in relation to waste management and local radio stations are used for advertising.

Item 1. Minutes of Meeting held on the 22nd of February 2023

The Minutes of the SPC meeting held on the 22nd of February 2023 were proposed by Cllr. D. Lyons and seconded by Cllr. D. McDonnell and adopted by members.

Item 2. Matters Arising

The members requested updates on the following:

- The appointment of a Tree Officer and if there is now a full complement of Wardens.
- Clarity on Traffic Fines or Parking Tickets as referred to in previous minutes.
- Update on Masterplans and Strategies and if Renmore will be included in the Masterplans.
- Green Spaces Strategy response to queries raised at previous SPC meeting.
- The audit on Kissing Gates and the trial removal of Kissing Gates at Terryland and South Park.
- Clarity in relation to the R&A Needs Study and the Green Spaces Strategy are they the same or if one has priority.
- *The Blue Spaces Strategy – the DOS stated in previous SPC meeting that he would revert, and it was not recorded in the Minutes – E Hough would like recorded in Minutes.*
- The inclusion of various representative groups in the workshops in relation to the Green Spaces Strategy, the GCCN & PPN were to be included.
- Update was sought in relation to the unauthorised works at Lough Atalia and correspondence with the HSE in relation to the removal of trees at Merlin.

The issues raised were responded to by Ms. S. Connolly as follows:

- Will revert in relation to the appointment of a Tree Officer and Wardens.
- A pre-qualification tender has issued in relation to the Masterplans and the Kingston and Millars Lane masterplans will be the priority and Renmore is included.
- The Green Spaces Strategy will take priority over the R&A Needs Study and will be ongoing at present with workshops taking place over the next few months. ARUP are linking in with various representative groups.
- Draft documents are being prepared for consulting services in relation to the Kissing Gates audit and the NTA requirements must be met. A case-by-case approach across all areas will be required.
- The unauthorised works at Lough Atalia is a legal matter which is ongoing.
- The R&A Department are making efforts to engage with the HSE in relation to the removal of trees at Merlin.

Item 3. St Nicholas Market Traders Committee Mr. C. Hickey and Ms. L. Hein - Presentation.

The members raised the following matters:

- A request was made to circulate a copy of the presentation to elected members.
- If the use of St Patricks School was a success during Covid restrictions and if it would be considered by traders for future use

- Agreed that improvements were required in the area such as lighting, resurfacing works and power supply.
- If an increase in pitch size would affect the number of traders.
- Were supportive of the traders requests being considered.

Ms. L Hein and Mr. C. Hickey responded as follows:

- Requests have been made to the Council to carry out resurfacing works and await a reply.
- 7-meter pitch size is the preferred for all year round.
- St Patricks School was a success for the hot food traders however, the majority have a preference for St Nicholas Market.

Mr. M. Headd updated members as follows:

- The current process commenced last year however, there was minimum input from the public and a changeover of staff the process wasn't complete.
- The process has re-commenced with more input form the public and will consider all observations received and will take recommendations on board.
- There will be engagement with various Departments and the Traders.

Item 4. Mr. J Craughwell, Galway Sports Partnership, Galway City Council – Active Cities Galway – Presentation

The members raised the following queries:

- If there is budget provision for the additional staff and if it is out of Galway City Council's budget and the over reliance on volunteers.
- The importance of reaching out to disadvantaged areas.
- The budget provision for lights at Westside and signage for the Parkrun events which were not delivered.
- The need to provide safe areas and promote activities such as walking and cycling as part of normal daily activities.
- The access to the exercise equipment at O Sullivan Park and grass surrounding the equipment at Renmore was highlighted.
- The locations of the adult exercise equipment installed in various locations around the city and a request was made for installation of equipment in more prominent areas.

Mr. J. Craughwell and Ms. S. Connolly responded to queries raised as follows:

- Funds have been allocated over a 3-year period at a National Level by Sports Ireland for two Development Officers and Sports Co Ordinator and various sports projects therefore, the funds are not out of Galway City Council's budget.
- NUIG are doing an audit on the level of usage of the adult exercise equipment.
- The adult exercise equipment has been installed in quieter areas as many people are reluctant to use equipment in busy locations.
- The signage for Parkrun is being looked at.
- The lights at Westside will require additional funding as street lighting is not deemed suitable and this project.

- In relation to safe places more training needs to be provided to cyclists.
- There are 5 RAPID areas in the city which are being targeted along with other disadvantaged areas as people from more affluent backgrounds are more inclined to get involved in activities.
- Walking groups have been set up and walking football groups.
- The exercise equipment at O'Sullivan Park is available to use and not behind the gates at the running track. Arrangements will be made to cut the grass and clean the equipment at Renmore.

Item 5. Mr. D. Redington Climate Action, Galway City Council – Local Authority Climate Action Plan Adoption Roadmap

Item. 6. Mr. D. Redington Climate Action, Galway City Council – Climate Change/Energy Bureau update

Mr. D. Redington gave a presentation in relation to Item No. 5 and Item No. 6

The members raised the following questions:

- If funding is available for Galway City Council properties only or for private properties.
- Update was sought in relation to the Climate Action Monitoring Group
- A request was made for training for Community Representatives and SPC Members not just for elected members.
- If Stakeholders includes PPN's
- What Climate Action Plan projects will be going forward.

Mr. D. Redington responded as follows:

- Funding is for Galway City Council's assets only however, within models of SEAI other entities can apply for funds.
- The Climate Action Monitoring Group lost resources and therefore, was unable to continue. Currently seeking resources and will be back on stream once roles are filled.
- Training is only available to elected members, but workshops will be arranged for other groups.
- Stakeholders will be invited to submit submissions online and in various ways.
- There will be a generic questionnaire and early consultation will be part of the process.
- There will be a city wide Masterplan which will identify a range of measures required to reach the 2030 targets.
- Grant applications will be submitted for Galway City Council's buildings and assistance will be provided to the private sector in applying to SEAI.

Item No. 8. AOB

The following issues were raised.

- Cllr. Lyons requested a meeting to discuss additional steps at Blackrock.
- A request was made for signage for Merlin Woods at the Doughiska Road

- A request for the Biodiversity Officer to attend SPC meetings.
- No overnight parking signs were requested for Ballyloughane for Caravans and Campervans.
- Antisocial behaviour was highlighted at Rosshill Woods and Merlin Woods and a request was made for automated gates. A recent response in relation to costs for installation of automated gates was queried.

Ms. S. Connolly responded as follows:

- Blackrock is being looked at and the area is a SAC. A meeting will be arranged and will revert.
- The request for no overnight parking signage will be followed up with Roads.
- It will be arranged to have the Biodiversity Officer attend SPC meetings.
- The installation of automated gates would be costly with a number of considerations such as costs, safety, maintaining, and having the area cleared before closing. Anti-social behaviour is a matter for the Gardai. Installing automated gates may not solve the problem as other areas may be used for parking nearby.

The Meeting concluded.