

## **Minutes SPC Meeting**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 11.00am – Held in the Court House, Council Chambers.**

**Present:** Chairperson Cllr. Philip Brady, Cllr. Winston Bennett, Cllr. Craig Lovett, Cllr. T.P. O'Reilly, Mr Fintan McCabe, Paddy Connaughton, DOS; Susan Doherty, Adm. Officer,

Sean Guider, SWEEO, Colm O'Callaghan, SEES, Brona Keating, Climate Action Coordinator, Tara Smith, Community Climate Action Officer, Allison Treanor, SESEO, Helen Smith, SET Environmental Services, Aine Boylan A/Staff Officer, Bernie Mulligan, CO. Michelle Cass, Environmental Tech.

1. Cllr Brady introduced the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.
2. Minutes of the previous SPC meeting held on the 26/06/2023 were approved by (Cllr T.P. O'Reilly) and seconded by (Cllr W. Bennett). There were no matters arising from previous meeting.

### **Cllr Philip Brady introduces Allison Treanor-Senior Ex-Scientist-**

Aquatic Invasive Alien Species Impact on County Cavan Waters.

Allison explained what Nuttall's Waterweed is and the impact it is having on our waterways and lakes in County Cavan. It rapidly colonizes and spreads. It is an Island of Ireland issue. Going forward in 2024 further funding is needed and training given to all water users.

Allison: I also think Cavan Sports would be another outlet to advertise.

Cllr Brady thanked Allison for her presentation and asked if there were any questions.

Cllr Bennett: Thanked Allison

### **Question and Answers**

**Cllr Bennett:** Is there any interest in Angling groups to get Nuttall's Waterweed under control?

**Allison -** Yes in both Angling groups and Accommodation holders as it is in both their interest to get in under control.

**Cllr Bennett:** Is every county working on this?

**Allison -** Monaghan CoCo has been looking at Dromore river and we are in discussions with them regarding the system they are using to clean it up. In Q1 of 2024 we hope to be in discussions with cross border groups.

**Cllr T.P Smith:** Is there any Ecological groups out there?

**Allison** - Galway CC spent €300k on a machine to clean up Lough Corrib. If they did not harvest the Waterweed it would take away light from the fish and kill the fish.

**Mr McCabe:** You have mentioned everyone bar landowners?

**Allison** – In Q1 of 2024 we are going to talk to landowners.

**Cllr T.P Smith:** If there is a boat on a lake here and then moved to Galway how is it cleaned so it does not spread disease?

**Allison** – I know inland fisheries has a system to clean boats.

Cllr Brady thanked Allison for her contribution. He said social media was a particularly good idea to make water users aware of the problem.

### **Cllr Philip Brady introduces Sean Guilder – SWEEO**

#### Unauthorised Waste Activities

Bags being dumped on the side of the road is a big problem. If they are seen by the LWs they can issue an on the spot fine but, it takes place at night. Rubbish being retained in back gardens is another issue. We won a case this year where a customer had scrap metal around his house. In the Year to date there was 288 waste complaints (metal/scrap) and 1223 general complaints (litter etc..).

Since Covid the Litter Wardens and staff in the office have to put up with online and verbal abuse in person and on the phones which can be very stressful for all.

Cllr Brady thanked Sean for his presentation.

### **Cllr Brady introduces Brona Keating-Climate Action Officer**

#### End of the Statutory Process

1. Climate Risk Assessment
2. Element – Stakeholder engagement

Strategic one – Governance and Leadership. We hope to contact our local IFA office and get on their platform to advertise and notify farmers regarding climate change. We hope to work with agricultural groups within the county.

### **Brona introduces Tara Smith-Community Climate Action Officer**

We are pleased to announce that Cavan has a fund of €439,000 for communities throughout the County to implement local climate action projects. The application for funding is open for 13 weeks from the 13<sup>th</sup> of December to 6<sup>th</sup> March. The successful applicants will have 18 months to complete their project.

**P. Connaughton DOS** – Green agenda a lot of work has been done in the Corranure waste site. There are €3.5 million active projects now. We are looking at the ash die back at the moment.

### **Question and Answers**

**Cllr Bennett:** Hedgerows and the carbon uptake land.

**Brona** – Teagasc is documenting it.

**Mr McCabe:** The Communities are looking forward to collaborating with you both. Anaerobic digester are you looking into it?

**Tara** – Yes, we are looking into it.

**Cllr T.P. O'Reilly:** It could be one action for two groups?

**Tara** – Yes, the Men's shed could partner up with the tidy towns group.

Cllr Brady thanked both Brona and Tara for their informative presentation. He advised all Cllrs to circulate the funding available.

### **Cllr Brady introduces Susan Doherty-Administrative Officer**

#### Byelaws and Traffic Management Update

We are in the process of updating the parking bye laws and hope to have them completed by the end of Q1-2024. There is a grace time for parking on the street of 20 minutes.

**P. Connaughton DOS** – We are talking about the different types of parking. The issues in towns and lack of parking. There is 20 minutes free parking but then you have business given out about it. The disability bay business doesn't want them outside the shops either. The age friendly parking is not a good idea.

Cllr T.P. O'Reilly mentioned the casual trading spots in towns.

**A.O.B.**

No other business arose, and the meeting concludes.

### **Date of Next Meeting.**

The date of the next SPC meeting will be circulated to all members at a later date.

**Cllr Philip Brady, Cathaoirleach thanked everyone for attending.**