
MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29th MARCH 2018

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 29th November 2017. (Copy Attached)

Order: Agreed

2. Chairperson's Business

The Chair raised the topical issue of waste plastics in terms of plastics being exported to China and would like the Environment SPC to look at this matter at the April meeting

Celine Reilly responded.

- 95% of plastics were not exported to China the figure was 10% with the balance exported to Europe
- It may be subsequently exported from Europe to China
- Restrictions to the Chinese markets will be put in place; other export markets (Indonesia/ Turkey) have been identified.
- The Regional Waste office is running a campaign around plastics recycling.
- We will have further details on the return of the shipments.
- NTFSO is working with the Department on minimum levels of acceptable contamination

Order: Further report to the April SPC on plastics export, where it goes, percentages.
Report on plastics recycling / minimisation initiatives also to issue

3. Correspondence

None.

4. Waste Operations report – Simon Brock Administrative Officer

- (i) Bin Tagging Presentation
- (ii) Waste Management Operation Report

Order: Presentation & report Noted

5. Strength of the City Development Plan in relation to the protection of wildlife (EU Birds Directive)

Order: Noted

6. Dublin Waste to Energy update report – Céline Reilly, Executive Manager

Members raised the following questions / issues in relation to the report that was circulated.

- How much recyclable material is being processed by the facility (MOB)
- What is the threshold for a green bin being considered contaminated, e.g. where a green bin contains an item such as a pizza all contents of the bin are considered contaminated (MOB)
- Is black bin waste being sorted to extract the recyclable fraction (MOB)
- Are there records on the amount of recyclable material being processed at the facility? These figures should be in future reports. (MOB)
- Concerned that the threshold for deeming recyclable waste contaminated could be low in order to ensure that the Waste to Energy plant receives adequate waste. (MOB)
- All street waste is going to the incinerator (CB)
- Recyclable waste should not be processed by the Facility (CB)
- If the infrastructure to enable people to recycle is not available (on street segregation bins) then we are doing them a disservice. (CB)
- Can a tour be arranged to a transfer stations / waste facility.(CB)
- Disappointing the Engineer and Assistant Chief Executive are not in attendance (JMCC)
- What is the likely date for the Special meeting on the Client representative commissioning report (JMCC)
- The request had been for the actual biogenic content of the waste , this governs what proportion of electricity generated achieves a refit 3 tariff, Can we have actual figures on the Megawatt hours generated and what is the biogenic percentage of the waste (JMCC)
- Can we have the waste characterization report (JMCC)
- There is an absence of a report, which is available from the EPA. The EPA report for dioxin measurements was dramatically higher in the early stages of operation than the figure given in the report. Why is the EPA report not included in the DWtE update report (JMCC)
- Who gives the assurance that the measurement for dioxins quoted are independent and are they run by Exova.(JMCC)
- The Tecora machine has not met the specification and standard required by the EPA. For Covanta to claim that the readings are good is fundamentally wrong because the measurement engine is not meeting specification (JMCC)
- EPA Site visit report No. 13721 found c. 50 tonnes of flue gas residue awaiting removal, staff were in close proximity which in breach of condition 842 of the license (JMCC)
- It is scandalous that the Committee has not been given the Client representative reports as DCC agreed. The performance demonstration certificate issued on 24th November 2017. (JMCC)
- The EPA's site visit report SV13801 stated the licensee intended to submit the Commissioning Plan in December 2017, has this happened, can we have a copy of the plan, is it the same as or different to the CR reports. (JMCC)
- The plant is no longer owned by Covanta – Covanta refinanced the loans taken out to build the plant. (JMCC)
- The cost of refinancing was €57m, this is effectively taking money out of the project and giving to the financiers (JMCC)
- A further €20m (€10m per annum) in interest, the money borrowed (336M) has a discount of c. €20m bringing the total amount to c. €100m. (JMCC)

- Including the €100m spent by DCC on the project initially we are looking at €200m spent on this project by Dublin businesses and citizens. (JMCC)
- The district court decision on 26th March 2018 in relation to 6 incidents, 3 were not pursued, 3 were pleaded guilty. 1 of the incidents was found by the judge to warrant a €1,000 fine and other 2 were struck out with the probation act. (JMCC)
- DWtE Ltd have been found guilty on 1 of the incidents which related to reporting in a timely manner (JMCC)
- Another incident was for the plant operating below 850C (JMCC)
- The judge said that it didn't seem that more prosecutions were coming down the line but there have been 5 more incidents since January 1st (JMCC)
- There have been 46 incidents thus far in the plant of which 33 were for running the plant a temperature too low.(JMCC)
- On the day of storm Emma, 1100 mins, nearly 20 hours was operated under the required temperature. The reason for the failure was because the isolation transformers and cut offs were not working properly. (JMCC)
- The plant continued to burn waste for the 20 hours below temperature. (JMCC)
- The Committee was to get the CR report, which is a detailed report, when is it likely to be available (NOM)
- At the presentation from CDM some time ago it was agreed that 3 reports would issue to the Committee & placed on the DWtE website, the 1st report – Pre-commissioning tests, the 2nd report – Performance and demonstration test and the 3rd report the performance acceptance test. None of these have been received or placed on the DWtE website (JMCC)
- I will not be available 12th – 24th April, sufficient time must be given to consider Cr reports.(JMCC)
- The Committee should get a report on the refinancing (NOM)
- Could we get more detail on when traffic assessment take place. (CB)
- What are the operation hours of the plant. (CB)
- What is the definition of HGV, are only vehicles with in excess of 4 axles have to use the port tunnel (CB)
- How is it determined that RCV's used the correct route. (CB)
- DCC has an obligation to issue a statement that the incinerator is safe. (MF)
- The temperature drop is my main concern (COM)
- More monitoring stations need to be installed resulting from the incidents. (COM)
- When will real time information be available on the waste to energy website (CB)

Celine Reilly responded

- A report is being compiled on waste categorisation.
- People in the regional and environmental awareness offices are passionate about finding solutions to increase recycling rates.
- Will talk to the regional office to identify a suitable facility to be visited and put arrangements in place.
- We would expect to have the Special meeting before the next SPC meeting (April 25th) but at the latest by 1st / 2nd week of May.
- The Commissioning report is with the EPA and we are waiting for the REPA to revert.
- Will arrange for a response by 13th April in relation to the 3 reports.

Order: Report Noted. The following further reports to issue

- (i) Waste sampling and categorisation to include the inspection regime.**
- (ii) Pre-commissioning tests, Performance and demonstration, the Performance Acceptance Test and the Commissioning reports**
- (iii) Refinancing report.**
- (iv) Actual figures on the Megawatt hours generated and what is the biogenic percentage of the waste**
- (v) More detailed report on how traffic is managed / monitored.**

7. Plastics / Coffee Cup recycling Report – Fionnghuala Ryan, Executive Scientific Officer

Member raised the following questions in relation to the report that was issued.

- Would it be possible to follow Cork City Council's example of the outright ban of single use coffee cups from DCC premises (CB)
- The caterers, will this include caterers for public events, market traders and in our parks (CB)
- Coffee cup lids are recyclable; this should be included in any awareness campaign. (CB)
- Coffee cups are a terrible pollutant (MF)
- DCC water is good quality; we should not have bottled filtered water in our offices. (MF)
- Dublin Fire Brigade has €20k worth of bottled water supplied annually. (MF)
- The Environment PPN recommended the banning of single use disposable cups (RM)
- The PPN recommended that support be sought from the Chief Executive's Department banning disposable cups. (RM)
- Can future catering tenders provide for the abolition of single use plastic items (RM)
- We should not be bringing water in under contract and should lead by example in city hall (NOM)
- Water taps should be provided in our public parks. (COM)
- How does EU Law pose an impediment to banning single use plastic items. (RM)
- Single use plastic bottles should also be banned, a recent report on the quality of water in plastic bottles show 350 micro particles of plastic typically per bottle, the equivalent for tap water is 5 micro particles (JMCC)
- Could this become a recurring item on the agenda. (CB)
- Some outlets will not take reusable cups because there are problems with the Food Safety Authority, can this be clarified (CB)

Fionnghuala Ryan responded / Celine Reilly

- The banning of single use plastic items will be considered as part of future catering tenders (FR)
- In relation to banning plastic bottles across the city it is my understanding that there is EU law that has to be observed (FR)
- We are working with the conscious cup campaign to promote reusable cups (FR)
- In relation to licensed events we will have discussions with the Bloom Festival to promote reusable / compostable cups and reusable water bottles. (FR)
- I will be talking to Events section. (FR)
- The vast majority of water dispensers in DCC offices is mains water chilled (CR)

Order: Noted – See Item 9 for actions.

7(i). Segregated Litter Bin Trial – Fionnghuala Ryan, Executive Scientific Officer

Members raised the following questions / issues in relation to the report that circulated.

- The concept of on street segregation bins should be explored further.(MF)
- Flat complexes are not given recycling facilities can anything be done (MF)
- We should run a pilot scheme on one of the Flat Complexes to encourage waste segregation (MF)
- Could bins be colour coordinated bins to reflect the types of waste acceptable (EM)
- Were normal bins in the vicinity of where the trial occurred? (NOM)
- The bins should be coordinated in line with the household green brown and black bins (NOM)
- Were the bins on South King Street close to normal street bins. (NOM &CB)
- Why was the profile taken over a period of 24 hours on a Tuesday and Wednesday, at the weekend the footfall would be higher. (CB)
- Good visual signage on the bins is welcome and when will this be trialed and can we have updates on the trials. (CB)

Fionnghuala Ryan, Celine Reilly & Simon Brock responded

- There isn't really standard colour coordination across bin type; we are looking at using pictures to show types of waste acceptable. (FR)
- There is a challenge but we will be looking at other bin types for segregation of waste. (FR)
- I have been in contact with housing and we are looking at a Cluid housing complex to see if waste segregation can be put in place. (FR)
- Chancery House was piloted and worked well but larger complexes are proving more difficult (CR)
- We carried out cursory inspections of the segregation bins and found them to be contaminated. (SB)

- The Tuesday / Wednesday sampling was chosen as it was when both FR & SB were available (SB)
- It is likely to be Q2 2018 before the new bins are trialed.

Order: report noted, further update to be provided at a future meeting

8. Motion 1 in the name of Councillor Claire Byrne

'That this Environment SPC will work to find solutions to the challenges posed to owners of Electric Vehicles in the City who do not have garages or driveways with access to charging points. Solutions could include community neighbourhood charging points and charging points street light lampposts.'

Order: Agreed, revisit at a future meeting

9. Motion 2 in the name of Councillor Claire Byrne

'That this Environment SPC calls on Dublin City Council to ban the use of single use plastic water cups & bottles in the Council premises'

Order: Taken on conjunction with item 7. Agreed

- (i) **Statement of support from the CEO to be sought.**
- (ii) **Issue of water taps provisions to be referred to North Area Central Area Committee. (St. Anne's Park)**

10. Motion 3 in the name of Councillor Claire Byrne

'That this Environment SPC seeks to address the concerns of the residents of The Ringsend Environmental Health Group regarding the lack of effective monitoring of the environmental impact of the activities of existing commercial and industrial operations and potential new developments on the Poolbeg Peninsula on the local area and its community: Further details on their concerns can be found in the attached document, but specifically their questions are:

1. Who is responsible for monitoring the AMBIENT Air quality in our area?
2. What are the proposed (if any) locations for monitoring stations in Ringsend, Irishtown and Sandymount Villages?
3. When will this be done?
4. Will the results of this monitoring (particularly PM_{2.5}) be publicly available?
5. Will Noise, Vibration and Congestion studies be undertaken and will this data be publicly available ?

Order: Agreed, List as a separate item at next meeting, to include a list of full air quality monitoring stations be located in Dublin 1, 2, 3, & 4 (PM10 & PM2.5)

11. Motion 4, Councillor Claire Byrne

'That this Environment SPC calls on Dublin City Council to follow the example of Cork City Council and to ban the sale and use of disposable/ single use coffee cups in Dublin City Council offices'

Order: Agreed

12. A.O.B

Robert Moss raised the following items be dealt with under this item.

(1) Bridgefoot Street Community Garden

Subsequent to the November Environment SPC he met with Les Moore, City Parks Superintendent and it was agreed that the Community garden would be continued.

It will not be possible for the Community Garden to continue while the site is being developed as a park and an alternative site will therefore have to be found which has not been successful thus far.

The PPN Environmental Linkage Group requests that a meeting is arranged between DDC Parks, Bridgefoot Street Design Team and the Community Garden Initiative to ensure a commitment that the Community Garden is retained in the park. Can this SPC request this meeting.

Response: This is a matter for the Arts Culture and Leisure SPC and the PPN Environmental Linkage Group Should refer issues to that SPC .

(2) Part 8 Submission – Bridgefoot Street

Robert Moss' submission was recorded incorrectly, the submission requested for the garden to continue in an uninterrupted manner while the Park is built around it.

The Part 8 report states that Robert Moss on behalf of Bridgefoot Street Community Garden requests that the community garden and allotments should be relocated to a more southerly aspect. Can the SPC request that the Part 8 report is amended to reflect these discrepancies.

Response: Refer to John O'Hara, City Planner, not for this SPC

(3) Iveagh Markets

The Reclaim the Iveagh Community group came to the PPN requesting a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Martin Keane from DCC in relation to the Iveagh Markets.

Refer to Development Department –Details to be supplied to Robert Moss

(4) Asbestos

Fingal County Council permitted a company to store asbestos in an industrial area that backs on to houses in DCC administrative Area, who is responsible for permitting this, can DCC write to Fingal Co. Co. advising of dissatisfaction of this decision (COM)

Councillor O'Moore to provide specific details

An Air Quality report in the areas affected by the rerouting of bus routes owing to Luas Cross city and College Green Proposal (MF)

Request Noted.

In attendance

Cllr. Claire Byrne
Cllr. Mannix Flynn
Joe McCarthy
Cllr. Edel Moran
Robert Moss
Cllr. Michael O'Brien
Cllr. Ciaran O'Moore
Cllr. Naoise O'Muirí (Chairperson)

Apologies

Councillor Ciarán Cuffe

Absent

William Brennan (PPN)
Robert Colleran, Dublin Docklands Business Forum
Councillor Declan Flanagan
Councillor Tina MacVeigh
Councillor Michael Mullooly

Officials

Céline Reilly, Executive Manager
Simon Brock, Administrative Officer
Fionnghuala Ryan, Executive Scientific Officer
Ciaran McGoldrick, A/Senior Staff Officer
Ian Boggans, Assistant Staff officer

Naoise Ó'Muirí, Chairperson

30th March 2018.