



**Breviate of the Environment Strategic Policy Committee Meeting
Held 26th September 2018**

1. Minutes of the meeting held 27th June 2018
Order: Agreed
2. Matters arising
Order: Noted
3. Correspondence
None.
4. Chairperson's Business
None.
5. Eastern and Midland Region Waste Office Annual report 2017. – Hugh Coughlan,
Regional Co-ordinator
Order: Report Noted
6. Climate change Action Plan
 - (i) Climate Change Action Plan Update Report – Dr. Gerry Wardell, CODEMA
Order: Report Noted
 - (ii) Dublin Metropolitan Climate Action Regional Office – Céline Reilly, Executive
Manager
Order: Report Noted.
7. Biodiversity Presentation – Niamh Ní Cholmain, Biodiversity Facilitator
Order: Presentation Noted
8. Herbicide Policy Motion

"That this Committee adopts the attached Dublin City Council Herbicide Use Policy"
**Order: Motion Carried. Report on trials carried out on the use of non- herbicide
products in Stoneybatter to issue to the Committee. Herbicide Policy attached –
Appendix 1**
9. Litter Management Plan 2016 -2018 update report – Simon Brock Administrative
Officer.
**Order report: Noted. Piloting of underground glass recycling facilities to be
examined.**

10. Dublin Waste to Energy – James Nolan, Senior Executive Officer

- (i) Incidents and Non Compliances
Order: Noted. Further report to issue on why the Dublin Fire Brigade Emergency Services were not used after the lime spill incident.
- (ii) Software response from Dublin Waste to Energy
Order Noted
- (iii) Dublin Waste to Energy Re-financing report
Order: Noted
- (iv) HZI - NCV Waste calculation
Order: Noted
- (v) Q2 Environmental Report 2018 to EPA
Order: Report Noted

11. Dublin District Heating Systems, Victor Coe, Senior Executive Engineer

Order: Presentation Noted. When Business Model clarified report to issue to the Committee. Progress report to issue to future meeting of the Committee

12. Motion referred from the South East Area Committee:

“That this area committee calls on the manager to make the following changes to tackle litter in the South East Area:

- 1. Employ more good old-fashioned street sweepers as our numbers of front-line staff are down 20% since 2012.*
- 2. Increase the frequency of litter bin emptying and place the emptying rota on the side of the bin along with a freephone number and email address in case of problems.*
- 3. Encourage litter reporting via the @DubCityCouncil Twitter feed or a new Dublin City Litter Twitter and Facebook account.*
- 4. Reinstate the schedule on the Dublin City Council website that showed whether streets were cleaned daily, weekly or monthly.*
- 5. Require the double bagging of commercial waste in areas prone to seagull attacks.*
- 6. Instruct waste companies to provide smaller bins or caddies to smaller households and older people so that they have an easy-to-use alternative to wheelie bins.*
- 7. Reform our parking regulations working with the Department of Transport so that we can restrict parking on one side of the street on one day a month to allow our street cleaning trucks to make a clean sweep of roadsides.*
- 8. Improve our illegal dumping CCTV so that the batteries are solar charged, and the imagery is sent wirelessly to our offices instead of requiring mobile cranes to insert batteries and download images.*
- 9. Make greater use of CCTV warning signs and blurred image from CCTV to discourage littering.*
- 10. Ensure that the QR codes system on our litter bins is fully operational so that the public can report full or graffitied bins.*
- 11. Distribute two free ‘pooper-scooper bags’ envelopes and an information leaflet when people apply for or renew their dog license, and increase the amount of bins for dog waste.*
- 12. Better publicise the Dublin City Council Litter hotline 1800 248 348 and email southeast@dublincity.ie and ensure that litter complaints made by email or new media are responded to once tackled.”*

Order: Motion sent for report to next meeting of the SPC

13. AOB

(i) **Motion in the name of Councillor Paddy Smyth**

“To amend the council's litter bye-laws to prohibit the use of council property (i.e. street furniture and lamp-posts) for the erection of election material/advertisements during the allotted period of time in which it is permissible to advertise election material under the below legislation (1-8) and instead allow each Local Area Committee to designate specific streets on which poster erection on council property would be permissible.”

1. Litter Pollution Act 1997, amended by the Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009
2. Protection of the Environment Act 2003
3. Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2013
4. European Parliament Elections Act 1997
5. Local Elections Regulations 1995
6. Referendum Act 1994
7. Electoral Act 1992
8. Road Traffic Act 1961

Order: Motion defeated

- (ii) The Chair suggested that the November meeting should start at 2.30pm in order to deal with the specific topic of bathing water quality.

Order: Agreed

Naoise O’Muirí

Chairperson

26th September 2018

In attendance

Members

Councillor Ciarán Cuffe
Councillor Mannix Flynn
Joe McCarthy, An Taisce
Councillor Edel Moran
Councillor Michael Mullooly
Councillor Michael O'Brien
Councillor Ciaran O'Moore
Councillor Naoise Ó'Muirí

Apologies

Councillor Tina MacVeigh
Councillor Claire Byrne
Robert Moss, PPN

Officials

Dick Brady, Assistant Chief Executive
Céline Reilly, Executive Manager
Les Moore, Parks and Landscape Division Superintendent
James Nolan, Senior Executive Officer
Hugh Coughlan, Regional Co-ordinator, Eastern and Midland Region Waste Office
Eithne Gibbons, Senior Executive Officer
Victor Coe, Senior Executive Engineer
Niamh Ní Cholmain, Biodiversity Facilitator
Ciaran McGoldrick, A/Senior Staff Officer
Ian Boggans, Assistant Staff Officer

Outside Bodies

Dr. Gerry Wardell, CODEMA
Michelle Hallahan, PPN linkage group

Appendix 1

Dublin City Council Herbicide Use Policy

Glyphosate has been one of the most commonly used herbicide worldwide for several decades and as recently as 12th December 2017, the European Commission made the decision to renew the approval for the use of glyphosate for five more years.

Dublin City Council is conscious however of the need to reduce, replace, and where possible eliminate the use of herbicides and particularly glyphosate due to the potential risk to the environment and human health as highlighted by the World Health Organisation (2015 Report on Evaluation of organophosphate herbicides).

Dublin City Council is also conscious of the widely held desire amongst the public to maintain a 'tidy' appearance in estates, neighbourhoods and along roads which traditionally has meant the widespread application of herbicides to eliminate the perception of untidiness which is created by the growth of weeds. Weed growth does not pose a hazard to the public, and herbicides are being used for aesthetic reasons.

Dublin City Council's policy with regards to herbicide use is to eliminate the use of herbicides by implementing alternative control methods, or where appropriate, allowing weeds to grow.

Alternative control methods to herbicides such as hot water, foam stream, flame weeding and concentrated vinegar are currently being trialled in Dublin to replace the use of herbicides. These alternative trials have eliminated weeds, however the degree of success heretofore achieved with one application of herbicide will probably require up to three or more applications annually of the alternative method. During the period 2018-2020, appropriate methods, or a combination of methods, will be trialled by departments within Dublin City Council to replace herbicide use.

It is unlikely that the alternative control methods being assessed will be as economical as the existing use of herbicides and this will be a consideration in the preparation of future operational budgets.

It is also possible in the future, that it will not be feasible for local authorities to deliver the number of maintenance visits required to eliminate all weed growth and achieve a 'herbicide free city' and so a tolerance of weeds may become more normal.

The physical removal of weeds by hand or using tools is also an important means of weed control and it is Dublin City Council policy to facilitate residents/community groups through tidy towns and similar community initiatives to having local clean-up events which do include the physical removal of weed growth which the local community deems unsightly. The judging and evaluation of the Tidy Towns and Tidy Districts Awards is increasingly informed by the need to reduce and minimise the use of herbicides, to protect bees and other insects, and to promote pollinator friendly areas.

Dublin City Council's policy with regards to queries, complaints or requests for weed control by members of the public should not be to revert automatically to herbicide application but to encourage residents, communities and business groups to manage weeds in their area as part of their contribution to the 'Tidy Towns' and/or the 'All-Ireland Pollinator Plan'

This will include the supply and collection of blue bags to dispose of green waste which is arranged through the local Public Domain Officer. It is important to note that this herbicide policy will not apply to the management of Invasive Species where chemical control is the most appropriate control option.