
MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 27th APRIL 2016

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2016.

Order: Agreed

2. Matters arising.

Dublin Waste to Energy Project

Chairperson, Councillor Naoise Ó'Muirí circulated a draft report to Members that he compiled on behalf of this Committee for consideration as required by the Capita report. He intends to have this report included on the May City Council Agenda.

The Chair recommended that further reports on DWtE should issue to the wider council on a 6 monthly basis.

The Chair went through the report referring to the key issues that have arisen over the last number of Environment Strategic Policy Committee meeting to include

- SPC Membership representation on the Project Board and the Project Executive Board.
- The amount of the Community Gain Fund and the Liaison Committee.
- Location of the Local Office.
- Dust & Air Quality Monitoring.

Members raised the following in relation to the Chair's report.

- The Committee did not want to have membership of the Project and Project Executive Boards but wanted an oversight role in relation to their proceedings.
- Flexibility in relation to future reports to the wider Council. In the event that there is a deadlock between the officials and the members in relation to aspects of the project 6 monthly reports may not be adequate
- The inclusion of traffic and transportation issued in future reports

The Chairperson responded

- Although it was not the view of all Members the minutes of previous meetings reflect that the SPC sought membership of both the Project and Project Executive Boards
- Future reports will issue to the wider council on a periodic basis or as required.
- Traffic issues have not as yet arisen but will be included in future reports as required.

Order: Report that was circulated to be included on the May Agenda of the City Council

Calculation of Community Gain Fund

This has been referred to the Finance Strategic Policy Committee and the Audit Committee

3. Chairpersons Business.

None.

4. Correspondence.

None.

5. Recent Dumping Campaign and data protection concerns. (Report attached)

Eileen Gleeson, Senior Executive Officer circulated a report to Members outlining the background and current status of the North Inner City Litter Action Group's actions to combat illegal dumping and littering.

The report covered the themes / actions below

- Background.
- Objectives of the Action Group.
- Bag Searches with statistical data.
- Compliance Surveys with statistical data.
- Fines.
- Community focussed activities.
- Enforcement of Housing Regulations Standards by way of Environmental Health Inspections with statistical data.
- CCTV and data protection concerns.

Members raised the following points.

- The survey that showed 54% did not have compliant waste collections arrangement is not in anyway a suggestion of delinquency, it is in fact due to financial constraints.
- The introduction of the bulky household waste charge.
- There is no geographical coincidence why this is occurring the North Inner City
- If the CCTV / Posters campaign is not in breach of Data Protection Regulations the initiative should be extended.
- The poor uptake on the services of the Green Schools Officer.
- Is there an assessment of the Anti- Litter campaign in August 2015.
- Level of non-compliance with the Housing Standards regulations.
- Reward / Voucher system where improvement has occurred.
- The cost of these environmental initiatives and is there a levy being charged to waste operators to contribute to such costs.

- It is odd that crimeline does not pose data protection problems when publicising those involved in crime yet there is data protection issue with releasing images of those involved in illegal dumping.
- There is little sympathy for the Data Protection Commissioner as trading off rights of citizens to have bye-laws upheld versus data protection rights.
- Is DCC's stand on this solid in terms of data protection.
- Was the Data Protection Commissioner acting on complaints.
- Demographic of those residents who are non-compliant with regulations
- Are waste operators involved in the anti-litter / illegal campaigns or do they make a financial contribution.
- Can the dog fouling / anti-litter signage be enlarged.
- There is a correlation between illegal dumping and the cost of waste disposal.
- It is clear that there are concentrations of poverty in the city and it is well established that the North Inner City is one such area.
- Is it possible to get a list of residents who have waste collection arrangements in place from the waste operators

Ms. Eileen Gleeson, Mr. John McPartlan & Mr. Declan Wallace responded

- The city neighbourhood awards encourage communities to get more involved in their areas for which prizes are awarded.
- It was never the intention that those offenders would be publicly shamed. The intention was to get the message out that it is illegal dump.
- The many initiatives undertaken have endeavoured to reduce the prevalence of illegal dumping.
- We will continue to with these campaigns in the hope that the mindset of those involved in illegal dumping is changed. It is intended to roll out such campaigns city wide as adopted in the Litter Management Plan
- The Data Protection Commissioner raised concerns after seeing articles in the media.
- There were in excess of 900 landlords that were non compliant with waste regulations
- DCC collects illegally dumped bags, not waste that is properly presented for collection by waste operators
- The charging of waste companies does not arise as what is being collected by DCC is illegally dumped material
- If illegal dumping was specifically linked to financial constraints this practice would occur in other less affluent areas of the city which is not the case. It occurs in areas where people choose to dump.
- DCC does not have the opportunity to prosecute landlords given the current legal situation.
- The size of the signage will be reviewed.
- The 54% of residents deemed non compliant are those that we failed to contact.
- The cost of the litter / dumping campaigns is met by DCC.
- We are conscious that not all residents can have a bin but where a property is deemed suitable the householder must use bins. It is anticipated that bins will reduce littering.
- It will be law in July that waste collection arrangements lists can be provided.

Order: Noted

6. Update on Independent Expert Assessment of Dollymount Flood Defences

The Director of Traffic gave a verbal update to members on the current status of this project in light of the engagement of an independent expert. The main points of the report are set out below.

- The Flood Defences & Sutton to Sandycove Cycleway went through the statutory processes, i.e. Part 8 and An Bord Pleanála.
- Councillors felt there was a lack of consultation with the public and that the public were unhappy with the height of the flood defences.
- Two groups were established to facilitate consultation, An Environmental Liaison Group and a Public Consultation Group. The Public Consultation was made up of residents, businesses and local councillors.
- The services of an independent expert were engaged to examine the rationale used by DCC to determine the height of the defences and DCC agreed to be bound by the expert's findings.
- The Independent Expert endorsed DCC's proposals but advised that there was some room for a reduction in the defence's height.
- DCC agreed to reduce the height of the wall by 200 millimetres. This would result in the defences having to be raised within 25 years if the forecasted sea level rises materialise.
- The Local groups were not satisfied with the 200 mm reduction and sought 600 mm. (From Mount Prospect to the wooden bridge).
- It was agreed subject to certain checks a reduction of 300 mm will occur. The feasibility of this reduction will be known soon.

Members raised the following.

- Thanked the Director of Traffic for his patience in dealing with the concerns of residents.
- Who is the Independent expert
- When is the next meeting of the Dollymount engagement committee.

The Director of Traffic responded.

- Dr. Jimmy Murphy is the independent expert.
- Membership of the Committee has been determined and meetings are not open to the public. The independent Expert's report will be forwarded to Robert Moss

Order: Report Noted

7. Minutes of Waste Regulations Subcommittee held on 24th March 2016. (Copy attached)

Members raised the following concerns.

- Waste operators aggressively targeting residents currently in receipt of a bag collection service to change bins even where areas have been deemed suitable for bag collection.
- Report on the workings of the committee

The Director of Traffic responded

- The subcommittee met today and Greyhound representatives were in attendance.
- Those residents changing from bags will not be compelled to change to bins before July; those areas that are given derogation for bag collections will remain as bag or mixed collections. Greyhound will publicise this on their website.
- Minutes of today's / future meetings will be on the June agenda of the SPC.

Order: Minutes noted

8. Dublin Waste to Energy update report.

Order: Report noted

9. Issues referred from the Public Participation Network Environmental Linkage Group Meeting held on 15th March 2016.

- (i) Dublin Bay Tidal Flood Prevention Walls are not suitable at Clontarf and Sandymount. This is because of the prevalence of pluvial flooding at both of these sites. Previously the sea wall at Clontarf has had to be breached to release pluvial flood water. Demountable barriers are required at these sites rather than a sea wall. (Report attached)
- (ii) Prioritisation of the orbital sewer within West Dublin. This is to avoid continued flooding at Ringsend caused by storm waters being directed into the frequently overloaded water treatment plant. (Report Attached)

The reports that issued were discussed and the following points were raised

- Non demountable walls are unsuitable as permanent barriers would block the outflow of flood water into Dublin Bay when pluvial flooding occurs
- The necessity of completing sewage works to relieve the load sent to the Ringsend Wastewater treatment plant when heavy rainfall occurs. This causes water treatment plant to overflow which leads to pollution.
- Is Sandymount also being assessed.

The Director of Traffic responded that the sewage works is an Irish Water Capital Project.

The feasibility of the use of demountable barriers is being assessed but is only for the 450 metre stretch of the flood defences.

10. A.O.B.

Councillor O'Moore raised the issue of recycling plastics and a bigger emphasis should be put on this.

It was agreed that this will be listed as an item at future SPC meeting.

Attendance

Members

Councillor Claire Byrne
William Brennan – Dublin Community Growers
Councillor Hazel DeNortúin
Councillor Andrew Keegan
Councillor Edel Moran
Robert Moss - Dublin City Community Forum
Councillor Michael O'Brien
Councillor Ciaran O'Moore
Councillor Naoise Ó Muirí (Chairperson)

Apologies

Joe McCarthy - An Taisce

Absent

Councillor Catherine Ardagh
Nicholas Cloake, Dublin Docklands Business Forum
Councillor Declan Flanagan
Councillor Mannix Flynn

Officials

Declan Wallace, Director of Traffic
Eileen Gleeson, Senior Executive Officer
John McPartlan, Public Domain Enforcement Officer
James Nolan, Executive Engineer
Ciarán McGoldrick, Staff Officer
Owen Sweeney, Staff Officer

Councillor Naoise Ó Muirí

Chairperson, 28th April 2016.