
MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE ACTION, ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27th MARCH 2024

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 29TH November 2023 & 31st January 2024

Order: Agreed, subject to item 2(ii) below

2. Matters Arising
 - (i) Councillor Cooney queried the position in relation to the simulated flood event; address under item 8.
 - (ii) **Minutes of 31st January to be amended to record that Councillor Flynn informed the Committee of his intention step down from the Committee**

Order: Noted

3. Correspondence

None.

4. Chairpersons Business

- (i) The Chair welcomed the launch of the new Climate Action Plan.
- (ii) The Chair welcomed new member, Cllr Darcy Lonregan who replaces Cllr. Mannix Flynn
- (iii) The launch of the National engagement & communications campaign on local climate action will be held tomorrow in Richmond Barracks @ 11.30am. All are welcome

Order: Noted

5. Noise Plan 2024 – 2028

Derek Kelly advised the Committee that Committee's endorsement to City Council to put the plan out to public consultation should have been sought at the meeting held on 31st January when the presentation on the plan was given.

Order: Agreed. The Committee endorse that the plan goes out to public consultation

6. Sustainability and the event sector – Simon Clarke

Members thanked Simon for his report and raised the following questions / issues

- DCC needs to be leading at all events, e.g. vendors using fossil fuelled generators should not be allowed.(DC)
- I noticed disposable e-cigarettes being sold at a Fairview Park event.
- Single use items were used at the launch of the Climate Action Plan (CM)
- Are there figures available on the % of compostable items that are being successfully composted (CM)
- The ban on the single use plastic was successful, it would be a shame for it not to continue (CM)
- We should be looking at direct connections for electricity at events (CB)
- What happens if a trader is not compliant with the sustainability element of the licence (CB)
- What needs to be done to stitch environmental requirements into licences at DCC events (CB)
- Can we contact planning to advise what can be done.

Simon responded

- An overall strategic policy is required to cover all events
- We use contractors that can certify that items are composted / recycled
- The contractors would verify that the material has gone through whatever process is needed
- I would have no problem with DCC initiatives being on display at events, e.g. one cup, single use plastics etc.
- Planning should be consulted in relation to licenced events.

Actions:

- (i) Liaise with Planning to clarify what can be put into event licences to preclude the use / sale of single use plastic, waste & fossil fuels for energy
- (ii) Training to be provided to DCC Events staff on sustainable event management
- (iii) Clarify if this SPC can develop a policy on sustainable events or is it a matter for the Arts SPC.

Order: Report noted

7. Bathing Water Quality, Emma Senior Executive Engineer

Members thank Emma for her presentation and raised the following questions / issues

- Disappointed that North Bull wall is not a designated bathing area as 00's use this amenity. The EU directive makes it clear that areas used for bathing by many people should be a designated bathing area (DC)
- There should be Councillor / swimmers groups representation on the Management Group (DC)
- It should be noted that the main sources of pollution is the waste water treatment (DC)

- The water quality is not on bathing.ie (DC)
- Why has our request to have North Bull Wall designated not been facilitated (DC)
- Can the membership of the management group be expanded to include Councillors / Swimmers Groups etc. (DC)
- It is great to see that there is science underpinning the data (NOM)
- The 55% for fouling in shocking
- Designating North Bull Wall should be designated (NOM)
- Is there signage, poo bag dispensers on Sandymount Strand (CB)
- How far away are from real time pollution information

Emma, Roy & James responded

- DCC has dedicated public participation webpage
- Participation period ran from May – September 2023
- We received 5 submissions for the North Bull Wall; location was assessed in accordance with the EPA criteria and it did not meet the required criteria for designation
- All submissions were replied to with reasons for non-designation
- It is sampled at the same frequency as other areas and results are published similarly
- 55% of poor water results are directly attributable to dog fouling
- We are happy to present at future meetings if required
- The designation status has no bearing on the level of work / sampling etc being carried out
- Real time info cannot be provided currently

Order: Presentation Noted, Link to EPA report to be circulated

8. Climate Action Plan & Net Zero Cities – Sabrina Dekker, Climate Action Co-ordinator

Members raised the following questions / issued

- What are the plans for Dominic Street (DC)

Sabrina responded

- An artist will be engaged in consultation with the community for the hoardings
- On the Northern most block we are planning on taking 500metres to display rain water harvesting, water planters & rain gardens. This will inform the final design of what goes through

Order: Presentation Noted

9. Street Cleaning and recruitment – Barry Woods, Head of Waste Management

Members thanked Barry for the report and raised the following questions

- Would rather see the suburban areas get the additional attention first (NOM)
- Are you satisfied that category c, weekly clean is in fact a weekly clean(NOM)
- Would it be possible to look at smaller electric refuse collection vehicle (DC)

Barry responded

- Areas on the fringes of the Central Commercial District will now get a 24 hour (Thomas Street / Baggot Street) service which will help street cleaning deployed to the suburbs.
- We have gone to tender for a new fleet which will be 50% electric

Order: Report Noted

10. Dublin City Council Energy Policy 2024.

Order: Defer to next meeting

11. Motion tabled at the January meeting of the South East Area Committee

“This area committee agrees that in line with the city’s circular economy and waste reduction objectives, and supporting government efforts to reduce the use of single use coffee cups, it will be a condition for all new licences issued by DCC to operate coffee docks and tea rooms in the South East Area that the use of single use cups will not be allowed. Many compostable cup designs cannot be recycled and are not disposed of properly, and our city does not provide bins for the separate collection of compostable food containers, so all new applicants for licenses to operate coffee docks and tea rooms should commit to using only reusable/returnable beverage containers for sit down and takeaway orders.”

Order: Agreed, discuss with Parks Department

Members

Councillor Claire Byrne

David Kelly, Dublin Chamber

Councillor Darcy Lonergan

Councillor Carolyn Moore

Councillor Naoise Ó Muirí

Councillor Claire O’ Connor

Councillor Michael Watters

Robert Moss, Public Participation Network

Bernie Guinan, Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland (ACEI)

Trevor Clowry, Crumlin Community Clean-Up – Public Participation Network

Also in attendance

Councillor Donna Cooney

Officials

John Flanagan, Assistant Chief Executive & City Engineer

Derek Kelly, Executive Manager

James Nolan, Executive Manager

Sabrina Dekker, Climate Action Co-Ordinator

Simon Clarke, Administrative Officer

Barry Woods, Senior Engineer
Emma Finlay, Senior Executive Engineer
Christopher Carroll, Administrative Officer
Niamh Sloyan, Staff Officer

Cllr Claire Byrne
Chair, Climate Action,
Environment and Energy
Strategic Policy Committee
31st March 2024