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## MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE ACTION, ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 31<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2024

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1. Minutes of the special SPC meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Order: Agreed**

2. Noise Action Plan

Members thanked Owen for his report and raised the following questions and comments

- Does the plan include for noise from speakers from outdoor dining, bars and nightclubs? Particularly noise from hospitality and construction industries (MF)
- What is our leverage on Iranrod Eireann through this process? (NOM)
- Is there a statutory obligation for Iranrod Eireann to engage with the NAP or is it a looser arrangement? (JL)
- In terms of the designated quiet areas - what are they and have they been selected? (JL)
- Is there any kind of streamlined system to secure loose manholes? (DH)
- Will the NAP be taking into consideration for potential housing developments? (CB)
- Does the unit have enough staff and enforcement when there is a breach? (MF)

Owen McManus responded

- The environmental noise regulations focus on road, transport related noise and industry and doesn't address the noise mentioned by Cllr. Flynn. There is a noise management framework in the plan that looks at those priority area, managing planning applications and construction. The overall framework is there to cover everything.
- We are required to consult with Iranrod Eireann and we are engaging with them. There is nothing we can do as a local authority in those two areas, so we must engage with them with a view agreeing what can do done at the two sites.
- For the rail, the regulations define who is responsible for developing the NAP. Irish Rail had the obligation to be a consultee on the NAP. There are ongoing discussions of their role during implementation process as we cannot go onto the rail infrastructure. The NAP implementation is not clearly set out in regulation but our view is there could be actions set out for third parties.
- In terms of quiet areas, there is a methodology produced by the EPA to identify areas. We have used the model to determine the absolute quiet areas and relative quiet areas. As part of the evaluation we need to justify the quiet area which will go

as a proposal to the Minister. At the area meeting we can share the proposed quiet areas and get feedback.

- Manholes are not included in the noise action plan, but if the locations are submitted as an enquiry through customer services and redirected to the correct department or liaised with the utility companies.
- The strategic noise maps and NAPS are available to consider as part of the planning applications. All planning applications include noise considerations.
- We got two additional staff members in 2023 and we have two additional vacancies to be filled this year.

### 3. Litter Management Plan

Members thanked Richard for his plan and raised the following questions and comments

- What is the timeframe for the adoption of a new plan? (NOM)
- We need a specific objective for CCTV and the use of footage. (NOM)
- Street sweeping is a service done on certain roads very infrequently in suburban areas. Road, cycleway and footpath sweeping need to be separately considered (NOM)
- Leaf sweeping and leaf removal needs to be improved (NOM)
- Is there a way to measure the impact of the pilots for preventing dog fouling? (CM)
- How much of the litter on our road is coming from bags left out for collection from terraced roads with no wheelie bins? Is there any intention to try extend bagbins to residential areas? (CM)
- We could engage communities in leaf composting and it is important to consider coffee cups and how they are fill up bins. (CM)
- How are we so slow at moving the CCTV plan forward? (RMA)
- Will the street cleaning schedule be published? (RMA)
- Can we get a timeline on when we will be able to issue the CCTV tender and what the consultation process is going to look like? (JH)
- We have a working group being run by in the North Inner City about litter, and is this feeding into the overall litter management plan for the city? There needs to be collaboration with the parks department to beautify parts of the city to discourage illegal dumping. (JH)
- Is there a way to update the street cleaning software to show when the street was last cleaned? (TC)

Richard Whelan responded

- We hope have the draft and public consultations done within the next 6 months to then bring to full council.
- The three objectives highlighted by Cllr. O'Muire are on our agenda
- We have budgetary approval for additional recruitment and we hope to get all the staff we need and there is a plan to bulk up all teams. We have invested significantly in new fleet. Footpaths and cycleways are creating a new challenge as some can only be swept manually. We are constantly lifting leaves from the city. We can sweep in the morning and after a wind it can be cover in leaves an hour later. We are going to incorporate as much of this into the plan and after recruitment hopefully we will have the resources to hold it up. (DK)
- All leaves collected by DCC are collected by Thorntons for bioprocessing. No leaves go to the incinerator. (DK)

- We are fully supportive of leaf composting and waste management will try to support the area offices to facilitate this. (DK)
- We are doing a survey of streets that were designated as not suitable for wheelie bins, with a view to move some of these to wheelie bins, bagbins (where appropriate) or other mechanisms (DK)
- Dog fouling is not good for citizens and it is mostly an educational piece. (DK)
- Trying to change people's behaviour is very difficult. We give out thousands of free bags and hang thousands of signs. As part of Leave No Trace Ireland a survey was carried out about dog fouling, the majority of people will clean up after their dog, there is a cohort that will only clean up if they feel someone is looking, and the final cohort that will never clean up. It is a small number of people creating the problem. There will be another awareness campaign running this year using grant money. (BL)
- It is extremely challenging to enforce, because we have to get a member of the Gardai to with us. A small number of fines we issued last year, but this will not make our city clean. (BL)
- Whilst the codes of practice for CCTV have been signed off by the minister, they need to be written into the legislation and signed by the attorney general. After that we will do our CCTV scheme. I have started a business plan for this, we will also need to go to tender to find who will provide the service. The WERLA office is going to issue guidance which we need to proceed. It is difficult to give a timeframe. The tender is ready and we will do it as quick as we possibility can. (BL)
- As part of our city wide review we plan to expand the city centre area that gets a 24hr sweeping service by about 30% geographical area (BW)
- If there is curtilage to the rear, front or side of the house we will be recommending the householder move to wheelie bins. (BW)
- As part of the Inner City working group we are looking at using the reverse register legislation. We are looking for data from the waste collectors and drilling through the data to find who doesn't have a waste contract in place. Depending on how successful it is this will feed into the overall plan. (BW)
- It is a challenge to meet the cleaning schedule programme with resources and the schedule is under review, (BW)

**Order: Noted**

4. Bin Sensors and BagBin Trial

Members thanked Barry for his presentation and raised the following questions and comments

- What is the response of the collectors to the bag bins and do they allow for separate streams of waste? (CM)
- What is meant by curtilage in regards to the wheelie bin policy? (CM)
- Why are we not moving towards the Spanish model where the bin is under the street? (DC)
- Are DCC making a unilateral decision on which streets will be switched over and will Councillors be given the opportunity to engage in the process? (RM)
- When are we going to see progress on the trials of shared bins in the inner city (CB)  
**(to be answered at a later stage)**

Barry responded

- If there is space within the holding of the hold/ plot of the house, but not onto the public footpath, then we will be recommending the move to a wheelie bin.

- The collectors have indicated that it takes slightly longer with the bagbins but they haven't indicated any increase in cost to the customer as a result.
- You can offer a different colour BagBin if required but all waste streams can go into the same BagBin.
- The European model is completely different to what we have in Ireland. It is usually a single waste collector. In Ireland we have multiple waste collectors. We have a proliferation of underground services and in places a very high water table. Many streets in Dublin do not have the capacity for the space needed for underground collection of waste. Primarily the issue is that Dublin has an open waste market, so there is an ownership issue.
- We certainly will speak with all stakeholders. We are taking it further we are looking at houses within streets with the aim to get as many bags off the streets as possible.

**Order: Presentation Noted**

5. National Waste Management Plan

Members thanked Hugh for his report and raised the following questions and comments

- Why is level of contamination in bins so high and is there any way to fix it? (RM)
- A lot of people put wet coffee cups into the recycling in Clontarf. There needs to be more education on using keeppups rather than cardboard cups (DC)
- How does Dublin compare on a national level and how can local authorities and communities drill down to see how well they are doing? (RM)
- We are failing to do anything about source separation for city bins (CB)

Hugh responded

- Everyone has been focused on using the dry recycling and brown bin correctly. 95% of what is going into the brown bin is correct. The material compliance is around 65%, often the additional material is correct but it's soiled. The residual bin was seen as a catch all. There is a lots of work to be done on the education piece around the residual bins. In the plan we are setting out the target to communicate widely regarding the residual bin.
- We have data at the house hold level. The commercial is a bit different as the statistics are not reported in the same way. The primary relationship is with the waste operator, they hold all the data and there should be an onus on them to promote that they have this information how people are performing at a household level.

**Order: Report Noted**

6. Re-Turn – Ireland's New Deposit Return Scheme.

Members thanked Gillian for her presentation and raised the following questions and comments

- Do all items have to have the DRS logo on them? (RM)
- There is a huge support behind this topic. How is the pricing and price labelling going to work? Is there a commitment from the retailer to keep the machines emptied? (CM)
- How do the public get their money back? (RM)

Gillian responded

- Yes all items will have to have the DRS logo on them to be eligible for the deposit to be returned. From tomorrow the retailers will be able to charge the deposit. There is a few weeks were a deposit might be charged but the logo might not be on the stock. Once this period has lapse all items will have the logo.
- You will see the 1€ price for the drink on the shelf and they will also include mention of the 15cent deposit.
- A great deal of work has gone into the estimation of volume of returns. The collection schedule and the size of the machines has been considered. If the volume surpasses the expected amount, additional collections can be scheduled.
- There are standards within the retail membership rules around branding including the visibility and font regarding pricing. The number of containers must be listed on the receipt separately.
- The bottle/can goes into the machines and it generates a receipt. This receipt is brought into stores and then the value is returned in cash or against your purchase in store.

**Order: Presentation Noted**

7. A.O.B.

Reminder of the Community Climate Action Fund is currently accepting applications. The deadline on the 6<sup>th</sup> March. If you could reach out to all your local groups to remind them apply. There is almost 2 million euro available. (CB)

**Order: Noted  
In attendance**

Members

Councillor Claire Byrne  
 Councillor Deborah Byrne  
 Councillor Mannix Flynn  
 Councillor John Lyons  
 Councillor Carolyn Moore  
 Councillor Naoise Ó Muirí  
 Councillor Clare O' Connor  
 Councillor Catherine Stocker  
 Councillor Michael Watters  
 David Kelly, Dublin Chamber  
 Robert Moss, Public Participation Network  
 Bernie Guinan, Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland (ACEI)  
 Trevor Clowry, Crumlin Community Clean-Up – Public Participation Network

Absent

Councillor Karl Stanley  
 Sally Starbuck, Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland

Also in attendance

Councillor Raymond McAdam

Councillor Donna Cooney  
Councillor Deirdre Heney  
Councillor Janet Horner  
Sam Trantum, Dublin Inquirer  
Gillian McCann, ReTurn  
Nina Carey

Officials

John Flanagan, Assistant Chief Executive & City Engineer  
Derek Kelly, Executive Manager  
Sabrina Dekker, Climate Action Co-Ordinator  
Brian White, Senior Executive Officer  
Hugh Coughlan, Senior Executive Officer  
Brian Heffernan, Senior Executive Scientist  
Paul Rutherford, Senior Environmental Health Officer  
Barry Woods, Senior Engineer  
Owen McManus, Senior Engineer  
Bernie Lillis, Litter Prevention Officer  
Richard Whelan, Administrative Officer  
Christopher Carroll, Administrative Officer  
Niamh Sloyan, Staff Officer

**Cllr Claire Byrne**  
**Chair, Climate Action,**  
**Environment and Energy**  
**Strategic Policy Committee**  
**31<sup>st</sup> January 2024**