

Minutes of Meeting of Environment & Water Services Strategic Policy Committee held on 9th May 2016

I Láthair:

Baill: Cllr. Tomás Ó Curráoin, Acting Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Ivan Canning
Cllr. Niamh Byrne
Cllr. Noel Thomas
Cllr. Tim Broderick
Mr. Mark Green
Mr. Enda Monaghan

Oifigh: Mr. Jim Cullen, DOS
Mr. Mark Molloy, A.E.A.O.
Ms. Angela Quinn, S.S.O.

Apologies: Cllr. Gerry Finnerty, Cllr. Gabriel Cronnelly, Cllr. Peter Keaveney.

Cllr. Ó Curraoin welcomed Cllr. Canning to the meeting.

1. Minutes of Meeting of the 9th December, 2015

The minutes of the meeting of the 9th December 2015 were proposed by Cllr Ó Curraoin, seconded by Cllr. Canning and agreed.

2. Waste Management – Introduction of Pay by Weight

Mr. Molloy made a presentation on the Introduction of Pay by Weight which is coming into effect on the 1st July 2016. There will be a flat service charge for the year and a charge each time your bin is collected, depending on weight. There will be 2 bins in all areas and 3 bins in towns & villages with more than 500 people. If there is a wheelie bin service within 100m of the route, households will have to avail of the service. Bags may be used in designated areas only, these areas to be decided on by the Council.

Cllr. Ó Curraoin complimented Mr. Molloy on his presentation.

Mr. Green asked if there is a transition period. Mr. Molloy advised that the waste contractors are prepared and the infrastructure is in place.

Cllr. Thomas asked if there will be an extra cost to the customer depending on where they are living. Mr. Cullen advised that costs would be a matter between the collector and the customers.

Mr. Molloy said that the Council will encourage people to home compost and this is part of the campaign.

Cllr. Canning advised that Barna Waste are the only contractor to serve the Portumna area, they will charge what they like and was concerned that this will lead to illegal dumping. He also asked what the fixed charge would be. Mr. Molloy advised that while the council didn't have details of the likely charges he understood that the collectors would be providing details of same around the beginning of June. Mr. Cullen said that the Council will have more information in the future on the number of people on the collection route not availing of the service. He said he hoped that routes will be expanded, which will keep costs down. If the price is too high, it will entice competitors to the market.

Cllr. Broderick stated that he expects pay by weight to have a negative impact and illegal dumping will increase. If the council know who's not availing of the service, how can they follow up on enforcement as resources are limited.

Mr. Monahan asked about the pricing and if there could be a lead in period to the charge. Mr. Cullen advised that it depends on the market conditions.

Cllr. Byrne asked about the use of refuse bags as in her area. Mr. Cullen advised that the Council will be designating areas where bags can be used, but the objective is to keep these to a minimum. The Council can request customers to produce evidence of their collection service. Cllr. Byrne asked if it was compulsory to have the 3 bins. Mr. Molloy stated that the 3 bins will be provided in towns & villages with agglomerations of more than 500 persons. In rural areas, it will be 2 bins.

Cllr. Canning asked if the bins will be collected every week. Mr Cullen stated that the regulations provide for a minimum of two weeks collection frequency.

Mr. Green asked who decides on the clusters and if it was mandatory to take the 3 bins, if a person is already composting. Mr. Molloy said it was the Council who decided on clusters, based on DED's. This information will be available on the Council's website. He also advised that if you are in an area where the 3 bins are in operation, then you will have to get the 3 bins. The Council do not want to discourage home composting in these areas, but there will always be a small portion of waste ie bones, that will go into the brown bin.

Cllr. Canning asked if 3 bins would cost the same as 2 bins. Mr. Molloy stated yes they would.

3. AOB

Cllr. Broderick thanked Mr. Molloy and Ms. Ni Mhainnín for their work with the Kilconnell Community Group. He also asked if NOM money could be allocated to Kilconnell Burial Ground car park and if the Council would provide disability access to Burial Grounds. Mr. Cullen said that NOM request would need to go before CPG, but it would be difficult to get NOM for anything other than road improvements. Any other works required for Kilconnell Burial Ground would need to be discussed with Mr. Carroll.

Cllr. Broderick asked who is responsible for boil water notices. Kilconnell GWS is on a boil notice for 6 months, and no communication has been received from Irish Water regarding a reduced bill. Mr. Cullen will check this with Irish Water at the next meeting.

Cllr. Byrne asked who is responsible for the maintenance of the pipe network outside a housing estate, which got blocked following the flooding. Mr. Cullen advised that the Local Engineer would know best, as it could be either GCC, OPW, Irish Water or the developer.

Cllr. Thomas asked about litter fines in the County area and Connemara area. The figure is very high for unaccounted for fines, but he praised the work of the Community Wardens in the area. Mr. Cullen said that a further detail would be provided.

Mr. Cullen advised that Irish Water have produced the Draft National Waste Water Sludge Management Plan which is on public display in the Planning Sections of Local Authorities and on www.water.ie. The closing date for receipt of submissions is 18th May 2016. This document outlines their strategy to ensure a nationwide standardised approach for managing waste water sludge over the next 25 years. It doesn't take account of development of a plant at the east side of the county, but the Council will be making a submission.

Next meeting will be Wednesday 6th July 2016

The meeting then concluded.