**MINUTES OF CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY ACTION SPC HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON 7TH MAY 2020**

**PRESENT:**

Elected Members:

Councillor Rory O’Connor (Incoming Chairperson )

Councillor Dermot O’Brien

Councillor Lourda Scott.

Councillor Peir Leonard.

Councillors Jody Neary

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Members from External Sectors:

Annette Vaucanson Kelly , Environment/Conservation Pillar East Wicklow.

Sharon Jackson, Environment/Conservation Pillar West Wicklow

Rhona Lennox, Comhairle na nÓg

Officials Present:

Breege Kilkenny, Director of Services.

Theresa O’Brien, Senior Executive Officer.

Marc Devereux, Senior Engineer.

Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer.

Mary Cahill, Senior Executive Engineer.

Jim Callery, Environmental Awareness Officer.

**Item 1 To note the minutes of the meeting held on 31st October 2019**

It was noted by Cllr Dermot O’Brien that Rhona Lennox was recorded in the minutes as Shona Lennox and Theresa O’Brien apologised and said this would be rectified.

**Item 2 To welcome new members and the Climate Action Officer**

A general update on membership of the committee as follows

* Mary Cahill appointed as Climate Action Officer
* Cllr Jodie Neary who replaced Cllr Jennifer Whitmore on was welcomed to the committee
* Annette Vaucanson Kelly who replaced Keith Scanlon was also welcomed to the committee

A general introduction took place

**Item 3. Climate Action to receive an update**

Mary Cahill updated the committed on the following (Refer to presentation):

* 1. Implementation of the Climate Action Adaptation Strategy
  2. Local Authority Climate Action Charter
  3. EV Charging Points
  4. Tree Management Policy for County Wicklow
  5. Funding options available

**Item 4 Biodiversity - to receive an update on the following:**

Deirdre Burns updated the committee on the following (Refer to presentation):

* 1. Implementation of the Pollinator Plan
  2. Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project
  3. Swift Project
  4. Awareness raising initiatives

**Item 5 : Environmental Awareness**

Jim Callery updated the committee on the following :

* 1. Environmental Awareness on-going projects

**Item 6 :Energy – To receive an update on energy efficieccy and emissions** .

Marc Devereux updated the committee on the following (Refer to presentation):

* 1. Energy efficiency projects and progress to meet targets.

**Item 7: AOB**

Following the presentations the following items were raised by the members

* The members all agreed that there is a phenomenal amount of work going on as we speak the only issue is that not a lot is known in the public domain regarding the level of work being done
* EV Charging points- the possibility of plugging into lampposts
* The availability of trees to community groups
* The use of glyphosate in the County (it was agreed that this item be on the agenda for the next meeting)
* Funding options available including LEADER funding
* Training for both the SPC (CARO)
* Mitigation Plan
* The possibility of bringing Climate Action/Biodiversity speakers to the full council every quarter
* Develop a calendar to raise awareness and give guidance to people of what to do and when to do it to promote biodiversity
* Audit of people working from home

Breege Kilkenny – we need to agree our priorities

* EV Charging points for the Greystones Area.
* Climate Adaptation Strategy - Implementation Plan
* Tree Management Plan
* Funding and access to same
* Pollinator Plan
* Website and getting information out there
* Covenant of Mayors

**THAT CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**