

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 committee on the following (Refer to presentation):

- a. Implementation of the Climate Action Adaptation Strategy
- b. Local Authority Climate Action Charter
- c. EV Charging Points
- d. Tree Management Policy for County Wicklow
- e. Funding options available

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

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

- a. Implementation of the Pollinator Plan
- b. Brittas Bay Biodiversity Project
- c. Swift Project
- d. Awareness raising initiatives

Item 5 : Environmental Awareness

Jim Callery updated the committee on the following :

- a. Environmental Awareness on-going projects

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

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

- b. 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