

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 5**  
**Environmental Protection, Water Services & Energy**  
**Held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

- In the Chair:** Cllr. Tomás Breathnach
- In Attendance:** Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Maurice Shortall, James Murphy, Shem Caulfield, Brian Hamilton.
- Also Present:** Mr. Sean McKeown, Director of Service  
Mr. Frank Stafford, A/Senior Engineer  
Mr. Paul Murphy, Assistant Engineer  
Ms. Margaret Whelan, PPN  
Ms. Catherine Millea, Senior Staff Officer
- Apologies:** Cllr. Ger Frisby, Cllr. Breda Gardner
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- Item 1**                    **Minutes of SPC 5 Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019**  
Proposed by James Murphy, seconded by Cllr Maurice Shortall and agreed:  
“that the minutes of SPC5 meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2019, a copy of which was circulated to each member with the Agenda, is hereby adopted”.
- Item 2**                    **PPN**  
Margaret Whelan gave a Presentation on the PPN, specifically in relation to the Environmental pillar. Margaret advised the meeting that Tidy Towns groups can now join the PPN. A discussion took place around the need for a common sense approach, the need to work together, education and communication is vitally important. James Brennan advised that farmers need to be brought on the journey.
- Item 3**                    **Climate Action**  
Paul Murphy gave a Presentation on the current status of the Climate Adaptation Plan. Sean McKeown also gave clarification on the Plan. A discussion took place with contributions from Cllr. Tomas Breathnach, James Murphy and Brian Hamilton. It was noted that submissions can be made up to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019.
- Item 4**                    **Insurances**  
A discussion took place around the difficulty of community groups, in particular, groups involved in graveyard maintenance, in obtaining insurance to carry out works. Cllr. Tomas Breathnach to explore the idea of different groups coming together and obtaining one insurance cover.

**Item 5****Textile Banks and Bring Banks**

Frank Stafford advised that Kilkenny County Council has recently advertised a tender relating to the supply, installation & maintenance/servicing of textile banks at each of its bring centres currently in operation around the County.

He also advised that new bottle banks have been installed in Urlingford and that the bottle banks in Graiguenamanagh have been re-located to the Aldi carpark.

**Item 6****Waste Management Bye Laws**

Frank Stafford advised the meeting that a National Awareness Campaign will be rolled out. This involves a radio advert, explanatory leaflet, social & digital campaign and newspaper adverts. Following on from the awareness campaign the environment section will commence door to door inspections.

Frank Stafford also advised that meetings have been held with the service providers and that Kilkenny County Council will be aiming for a significant increase on compliance from the 2017 figure of 16%.

A discussion took place with contributions from Cllr Pat Dunphy, Cllr Tomás Breathnach and James Murphy.

**Item 7****AOB**

Tomás Breathnach conveyed his thanks to all on the SPC and within the Environment office. He also expressed his thanks to Cllr Maurice Shortall and wished him all the best for the future especially in light of his decision not to run in the upcoming local elections.

James Murphy expressed his thanks to Chairman Tomás Breathnach and to the previous Chairman Maurice Shortall.

Frank Stafford re-iterated the sentiments expressed. Cllr Pat Dunphy and Brian Hamilton also expressed their thanks to the Committee.

Maurice Shortall thanked everyone for their kind wishes and expressed his thanks to everyone.