

**CLIMATE ACTION AND PLANNING**

**STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of** **Climate Action and Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting**

**held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 21st April 2021**

**at 3.00 p.m.**

**PRESIDING**: Councillor Gerard Hagan, Chairperson.

**PRESENT**: Councillor - Uruemu Adejinmi, Mark Casey, Peggy Nolan.

Francesca Pawelczyk, Anna Delaney, Patrick Claffey,

**IN ATTENDANCE:**  Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services

Mr. Tom Murtagh, Senior Engineer

Ms. Lorraine McKee – Administrative Officer

Mr. Bernard Shea, Senior Executive Engineer

Mr. Gary Brady, Environmental Awareness Officer

Ms. Nora O’Farrell, Senior Executive Officer

**APOLOGIES**: Andrew McHugh, Councillor Garry Murtagh

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Ann Marie Mc Keon

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES.**

On the proposal of Councillor Peggy Nolan seconded by Francesca Pawelczyk, it was unanimously agreed to adopt Minutes of Climate Action and Planning Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on the 3rd February 2021, as circulated.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**.

None

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

None

**LONGFORD GREEN KEEP IT CLEAN CAMPAIGN.**

Gary Brady thanked the litter wardens and general service supervisors who are collecting the waste all over the county. We have now completed week 3 of the campaign and the support from the community have been phenomenal. Gary explained where receipts may be found on the roadside from fast food outlets that current legislation blocks them from accessing the CCTV footage at these outlets to identify the individuals. This legislation is currently under review. Gary gave a detailed report to the members on the campaign: -

* Communities all over the county have taken part so far in the Longford’s Green Keep it clean campaign 2021
* Newtowncashel, Ardagh, Killoe, Ballinalee, Granard, Drumlish, Dromard, Colmcille, Mullinaghta, Legan, Carrickedmond, Tashinny, Coolarty, Killeen, Bunlahy, Clonfin, Longford Town, Kenagh, Colmcille, Abbeylara, Newtownforbes, Shroid and Clondra
* Clean ups continue across the county with more and more families and individuals getting involved
* Promotion of the campaign continues through social media, radio and in the local paper
* It is estimated that the Longford’s Green Keep It Clean Campaign 2021 will see the collection of well in excess of 35 tonnes of waste and litter collected from around the roads of Co Longford by years end
* Bags, pickers and high visibility vests provided to groups

Dog Fouling

* On-line campaign in conjunction with 10 other local authorities
* Number of videos for social media/cinema
* Dog bags dispersed to communities
* If this doesn’t work will look at Green Dog walkers’ campaign

Some questions raised by members:

* Is the refuse suitable for recycling?
* Are the dog fouling bags biodegradable?
* Are fines issued?
* Recycling of plastic bottles

Gary informed the members that Mulleadys go through the refuse and sort it into the different categories. Dog bags are biodegradable. Fines are issued by the litter wardens and a regional meeting was held in relation to the plastic bottle recycle scheme, but it is only at discussion stage.

The members thanked Gary for the presentation and all the work that is been done.

**ENERGY MONITORING.**

Bernard Shea presented a very comprehensive report to the members on the Energy Elephant and responded to questions raised by the members.

**Introduction**

The range of activities being undertaken by the Council in relation to Climate Action is extensive across a wide range of Council functions for example:

* Climate Proofing the next County Development Plan
* Upgrading local authority housing stock with deep retrofits
* Public lighting upgrades to energy efficient LEDs
* Active Travel plans (cycleways for example)
* Biodiversity Projects

In order to target the Councils resources to best effect it is important to know what Energy the Council uses.

**Energy Elephant – DASHBOARD**

To track all this expenditure and to give it context Longford County Council uses a computer application called Energy Elephant:

* Longford County Council spent €839,000 give or take on energy in 2020
* €355,000 of this was spent on Public-Lighting - 42%
* Approximately 6033 public lights in the County
* €224,860 was spent of motor fuel for the Council Fleet – 27%
* The fleet consists of 8 Lorries, 19 Pickup Trucks, 12 Vans and an assortment of other vehicles including Fire Engines, Jeeps, Road Sweeper, Minibus, Ambulance – in total in excess of 60 vehicles and we have 61 fuel cards distributed among the staff.
* €77,000 is spent on lighting and heating the Mall Leisure Centre – 9%
* €183,000 is spent on everything else -22% which includes heating and lighting in 4 Office Buildings, 6 Libraries, 5 Fire Stations and an assortment of other building like Connolly Barracks, Providers area depots etc.
* 1-Dashboard – 2020 data – show unmetered electricity and motor fuel
* 2-Organise/Divisions – show Facilities by right clicking to access dashboard
* 3-Organise/Buildings-use search for Aras An Chontae Data Review Bill
* 4-Analysis –Consumption tab set 2020 data
* Top 20-meter points graphic
* Buildings graphic
* Fuel Breakdown
* Divisions Split

**Energy Reduction Targets**

Local Authorities were tasked by Government to reduce energy consumption by 33% by the end of 2020 and the final figures are currently being assessed by SEAI.

Longford County Council is on track to meet this target and this has been achieved primarily by

* Replacing older public lights with energy efficient LEDS
* Installation of Biomass heating Solar Panels at the Mall Leisure Centre.
* Renewing the motor fleet to more energy efficient vehicles.

The Government has committed to even more stringent energy reductions in the lead up to 2030 and beyond.

Energy Elephant is one of the tools that Longford County Council will be using to help achieve the necessary reductions.

Questions raised by members:

* Can solar be used for street lighting
* Is a council vehicle run on biodiesel
* What steps were taken to reduce consumption
* Solar panels on buildings

The members thanked Bernard for his presentation and welcomed the news that the council was on target to reduce energy consumption.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

21st July 2021.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Ann Marie Mc Keon

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Ann Marie Mc Keon,**

**Meetings Administrator.**

**Confirmed and adopted at Climate Action and Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 21st July 2021.**

***Gerry Hagan***

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Chairperson.**