**CLIMATE ACTION AND PLANNING**

**STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

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

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

**at 3.00 p.m.**

**PRESIDING**: Councillor Garry Murtagh, Chairperson.

**PRESENT**: Councillor - Uruemu Adejinmi, Gerry Hagan,

Francesca Pawelczyk, Andrew McHugh.

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

 Mr. Tom Murtagh, Senior Engineer.

 Ms. Lorraine McKee – Administrative Officer.

 Mr. Gary Brady, Environmental Awareness Officer.

**APOLOGIES**: Cllr Peggy Nolan.

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Claire McNabola /Acting.

Councillor Garry Murtagh started the meeting by welcoming everyone and he thanked Councillor Hagan for chairing the committee for the past two years.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES.**

On the proposal of Francesca Pawelczyk seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh it was unanimously agreed to adopt Minutes of Climate Action and Planning Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on the 21st April 2021, as circulated.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**.

None

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.**

None

**UPDATE ON THE N4 / N5 BYPASS POLLINATOR PROJECT – PRESENTATION BY GARY BRADY**

Gary Brady provided the Committee with a very informative update on the N4/N5 Bypass Pollinator Project.

In January 2021, works began on Fiddle Masters & Charlotte Brook Roundabouts

* Removal of Santolina Incana (ornamental plant), 5 Ash Trees(dangerous), 40 Ash Whips, 2 Beech Trees, 30 Cornus Sibernica (Dog Wood), Briars and Weeds.
* Pruning of Photina Red Robin, Birch Trees, Sedum, Autumn Joy, Pampas Grass and Cotoneaster Dammeri
* Planting in of 50 Geranium Roxanne, 45 Viburnum Opulus(Guelder Rose), 15 Fuchsia Mrs Popple, 70 Fuchsia Ricitoneii, 20 Sedum Autumn Joy, 10 Buddelia Nanho Blue and Black Knight and 160 Rosa Rogosa pink

In June 2021, works began on the Leo Casey Roundabout and Padraic Colum Roundabout

* Removal of Santolina Incana (ornamental plant), 5 Ash Trees(dangerous), 40 Ash Whips, 2 Beech Trees, 30 Cornus Sibernica (Dog Wood), Briars and Weeds.
* Pruning of Photina Red Robin, Birch Trees, Sedum, Autumn Joy, Pampas Grass and Cotoneaster Dammeri
* Planting in of 50 Geranium Roxanne, 45 Viburnum Opulus (Guelder Rose), 15 Fuchsia Mrs Popple, 70 Fuchsia Ricitoneii, 20 Sedum Autumn Joy, 10 Buddelia Nanho Blue and Black Knight and 160 Rosa Rogosa pink

In the presentation Gary shared before and after pictures of the works.

During the planting of both the Leo Casey and Padraic Colum roundabouts it was discovered that in excess of 300 birds’ nests were located within both roundabouts. Finches, Blue Tits, Blackbirds, Robins and Thrushes were all seen to be nesting there. ​

It is now the plan to seek advice from Bird Watch Ireland on how best to preserve these vital nesting habitats, accurately count the nest sites and promote these locations as Biodiversity and Pollinator havens within our county.

**UPDATE ON LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCILS ACTIVITIES IN RAISING**

**AWARENESS OF THE APPROPRIATE USE OF PESTICIDES IN OUR**

**COMMUNITIES.**

Tom Murtagh gave an overview to the Committee on the activities carried out by Longford County Council to raise awareness of the appropriate use of pesticides in our communities.

Tom shared a short video with the members aimed at household and garden users of pesticides.

In his presentation Tom gave the members an overview of the following topics:

* EPA - HSE position paper - sets out the national context regarding pesticides in drinking water
* National Pesticides and Drinking Water Action Group important role including policy
* Regional - Lough Forbes, Lough Rynn Catchment Multi agency focus group
* Farming and domestic use of pesticides
* Environmental Awareness work this year by Longford County Council on raising awareness with regard to good practice in the use of pesticides and in particular for Lough Forbes / Lough Rinn Catchment

Tom answered the questions raised by the members.

**Presentations**

Francesca Pawelczyk requested that presentations be made available to members at least one week in advance of the meetings.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

20th October 2021.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

 Claire Mc Nabola

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

**Claire McNabola**

**A/ Meetings Administrator.**

**Confirmed and adopted at Climate Action and Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 20th October 2021.**

Garry Murtagh

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

 **Chairperson.**