

**STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE**

**STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of Strategic Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee Meeting**

**held via Microsoft Teams**

**on Thursday, 21 July 2022 at 3pm**

**PRESIDING**: Councillor Colm Murray, Chairperson

**PRESENT**: Councillors – Turlough Mc Govern, Pat O’Toole and Gerry Warnock

Ms. Fiona Fenelon, Maria Keelty, Tess Murphy and Stephanie Igoe

**IN ATTENDANCE:**  Mr. Paul Newell, A/Director of Services

Ms. Suzanne Duffy, Administrative Officer

**APOLOGIES:** Ms. Samantha Healy, Director of Services

Councillor – Paraic Brady

Damien O’Reilly

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Ann Marie Mc Keon

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Tess Murphy seconded by Councillor Turlough Mc Govern, it was unanimously agreed to adopt Minutes of Strategic Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on the 21 April 2022 as circulated.

**MATTERS ARISING**

Ms. Tess Murphy sought an update on the following:

* Action plan for homelessness in Longford
* Tuaith, Granard
* Affordable Housing

Councillor Colm Murray committed to providing Tess with a written update on Tuaith, Granard and the Action plan for homelessness in Longford before the next meeting and Colm asked for affordable housing to be placed on the agenda for the October meeting.

Ms. Maria Kealty referred to the launch of the SHE (See her elected) initiative and her continuous call for Longford County Council to review the documents that they are publishing with regard to colour and print. Maria asked if the Council could consider her request prior to the publication of any new documents and Colm agreed to bring the proposal to the Corporate Policy Group. Maria will submit further information to the Meetings Administrator for consideration by the CPG.

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None.

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO COLUMBARIUM WALL POLICY**

**– AS CIRCULATED**

Administrative Officer, Suzanne Duffy explained to the members that the Columbarium Wall

is a collection of niches designed to house a receptacle containing the cremated remains of family members, each with an individual front section incorporating a memorial plaque. The cremated remains are placed behind the plaque in a suitable receptacle designed specifically for this purpose.

* The memorial plaque is engraved with an inscription.
* Application form to be completed
* Each niche can accommodate two cremated remains.
* No flowers/ or secondary monuments shall be permitted on or near the columbarium wall.
* To include 1st engraving (standard inscription only) €1000

The members welcomed the policy and thanked Suzanne for the presentation and Suzanne replied to the questions on:

* Capacity
* Cost for second urn
* Undertaker

On the proposal of Maria Keelty, seconded by Councillor Pat O’Toole, the members unanimously agreed to adopt the amendments to the Columbarium Wall Policy as circulated and to send it forward to the next meeting of Longford County Council for full adoption by the members.

**DOG FOULING CAMPAIGN PRESENTATION**

Suzanne Duffy noted that the Dog Fouling Campaign was launched on 7 July 2022 in the

Mall, Longford and this coincided with a Social Media Campaign with Scally-Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Radio Interviews, Newspaper Press Release & Advertising.

Suzanne highlighted the following points to the members:

* Pilot the Canal Walkway
* Improved signage along the walkway
* Community Warden/Dog Warden – Information campaign
* Spot checks at peak times – early morning, lunch time and evening time
* Dog License Inspections on surrounding estates e.g., Prospect Woods, Canal Close
* Enforcement if required
* Failure to pick up after your dog is an offence under the Litter Management Acts 1997 -2009 and could result in an on-the-spot fine of €150. The maximum court fine is €3000.
* Target problem areas in Co. Longford
* Housing Estates/Green Areas
* Walkways
* Parks
* Children’s Playgrounds
* Inspections for Dog Licenses in Housing Estates across the county
* Responding to complaints using Enforcement and Educational and Awareness
* Enforcement is challenging – witness/identification of person
* Educational and Awareness
* Funding Available
* Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti-Awareness Initiatives
* Promote public awareness and education in relation to litter and/or graffiti.
* Open to community and environmental groups, and on involving schools and young people in anti-litter and anti- graffiti action.
* Projects highlighting awareness of issues regarding responsible dog ownership with respect to dog fouling (clean-up) and the dangers not cleaning up can pose to the public including young children and wheelchair users.
* Maximum Grant up to €700
* Closing Date: 21st July by 5pm

The members raised questions on the following which Suzanne replied to: -

* Number of bins and resources
* Leaflets translated for polish communities
* Extra bins for canal

**OVERVIEW OF ROLE OF COMMUNITY WARDEN**

Suzanne informed the members that Michael Murphy was recently appointed to the role of Community Warden and the key functions in his area are:

* Respond to antisocial behaviour and complaints
* Provision of information and advice to tourists and visitors
* Visible uniformed presence in Longford Town, estates, parks, carparks, playgrounds, schools and identify hot spots
* Provide information to the public and local elected representative
* Enforcement powers: Litter, traffic, water, noise, etc.
* Provide reassurance, assistance and help in order to create a safer, more pleasant living environment
* A friendly point of contact for residents and members of the public
* Ensure a safer, cleaner and well-maintained town

Key issues to date:

* Antisocial behaviour – Drinking/begging
* Parking issues at primary schools
* Posters in the town area
* Dog fouling in the canal area
* Electric scooters and bikes on footpath

The members welcomed the news of the recently appointed Community Warden and were delighted with the extensive role that he will play in the community. They requested that his contact details would be forwarded to the Public Participation Network.

Tess Murphy enquired about cycle ways in the town and the continuing rise in the number of people cycling on footpaths. Colm confirmed that he will ask regeneration to provide an update to the next meeting.

**NEXT MEETING**

The members noted the date of the next meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

**Ann Marie Mc Keon**

**Meetings Administrator.**

**Confirmed and adopted at Strategic Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 20 October 2022.**

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

**Chairperson.**