

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Infrastructure, European and Cross Border Affairs and Sustainable Energy Strategic Policy Committee meeting held in The Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk on Thursday 7th June 2018 at 4.00pm.

Present: Cllr E Coffey (Chairperson)
Cllr O Tully
Cllr Dolores Minogue
Cllr E Corrigan
Cllr Colm Markey
Mr Sean Connolly
Mr Matthew Mc Greehan
Mr P Malone, Business/Commercial Rep

Officials: Mr Keith Hanratty, Acting Senior Executive Officer
Mr Pdraig O Hora, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms M O Callaghan, Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr Kenneth Flood
Mr A Sherry, Senior Executive Officer
Ms T Mc Ardle, Administrative Officer
Ms Emer O Gorman, Director of Services

1. Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr D Minogue seconded by Cllr O Tully the minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2018 were noted and approved

2. Matters Arising

P O Hora informed the members that A Sherry had investigated the matter of setting up a meeting with the equivalent to this SPC in Newry Mourne and Down DC. Unfortunately he discovered there is no such similar structure in Newry Mourne and District Council and has been unable to arrange the meeting.

Cathaoirleach of the SPC, Councillor Emma Coffey asked if we would write to the CE of Newry and Mourne DC to explore whether there is any appropriate committee on the Northern Side for discussion of cross border matters related to Brexit.

It was accepted that the focus of the request should be to seek a suitable committee for discussion of the *cross border issues* rather than economic basis which is the subject of a different SPC. P O Hora agreed to arrange this correspondence.

E Coffey enquired the status of the Special Speed limit Byelaws 2017..
P O Hora agreed to revert back with current position to the members.

3. Dog Litter and Dog Control

A discussion ensued on the issues of dog litter and dog control in the county. Cllr E Coffey informed members that the problem is being brought to her attention by member of the public in the Dundalk area. Although it was established 75% of dog owners carry bags and dispose of dog litter properly it was still a major problem in towns and country areas.

An awareness campaign was put forward as a measure which could be used to deal with the issue.

M Mc Greehan mentioned that the IFA have highlighted the issue that the licence and chip system of dog ownership is processed by different companies and that a central database should be set up.

Cllr D Minogue suggested that an education on the subject could be set up within the school system.

K Hanratty commented that although the legislation is available enforcement is difficult. 9 notices have been issued in Louth by litter wardens so far in 2018. The litter wardens carry out Blitzes regularly and signs are erected in prominent areas encouraging dog owners to tidy up after their pets. So good efforts are being made.

E Coffey suggested a media campaign could be used to include social media radio advertising an educational campaign.

P O Hora added that the former Dundalk Town Council had a number of audible devices that are positioned on poles and relay anti dog littering messages and this method could be revisited. The health issue is a major concern for many and this should be highlighted to dog owners in the campaign.

It was agreed that a campaign proposal should be brought back to this SPC for consideration.

4. Peace IV Update

Mr P O Hora explained to the members that the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) has initially approved PEACE IV projects with a combined value of €2.2m

A total of 13 projects have been funded as follows:

Children & Young People – 5 projects

Shared Spaces & Services – 3 projects

Building Positive Relations – 5 projects

The procurement process for the PEACE IV Programme has commenced and a number of projects are expected to start soon.

Louth PEACE IV Partnership and LCDC have approved a plan to rebid for the remaining €1.3 million ring fenced for Louth. Clarifications sought by SEUPB on

some aspects of the Rebid proposal have been answered in detail and a final decision on funding is pending.

The official launch of the Louth Peace IV Action Plan took place on **Tuesday 8th May 2018**.

Cllr E Corrigan queried how many projects are cross border projects and what is the cross border element involved. P O Hora agreed to ask Peace Programme Manager T Mc Ardle to respond to this query.

5. ISO 50001

P O Hora explained how the County Council developed an Energy Management System to help achieve the 2020 targets set by Government. The Louth Co Co EMS developed was based on the International standard ISO 50001 and Louth Co Co have been awarded the standard in 2018. This is a fantastic achievement for Louth Co Co there are only another 3 or 4 Councils in Ireland with this standard.

A discussion ensued and it was agreed that promotion of the Energy management System should be undertaken by the Energy Office and that a stand could be taken at appropriate events to highlight the advantages of having an energy management system.

P Malone agreed and added that the Chamber Website and Chamber events /seminars would be a suitable place to promote the system. P Malone pointed out that the " Budget Breakfast" event would be a good opportunity and that statistics on savings are something the chamber members would be especially interested in.

Any Other Business

Energy Update

Energy assessors for SMEs were previously trained by partnership between SEAI, LEMTB and LCC. PO' Hora advised that the uptake by SMEs for energy audits by the trained energy assessors was low. However, it was agreed that the promotion referred-to for EnMS would also be likely to encourage energy audits in the commercial sector.

P O Hora gave an update on the Better Energy Communities Project for 2018. P O Hora informed the meeting that SEAI have approved grant funding of €410,680 for a range of projects from different sectors of the community including 2 commercial garages Local Authority and other housing a school and a community hall. These buildings are not confined to Co Louth and some of the projects are from outside the county. There is a second BEC in louth based in Dunleer who are successfully running the scheme in south Louth mainly upgrading housing.

P O Hora informed the members that the Council has being recognised by LAMA with a special recognition award for their continued success with the BEC Schemes.

The Energy Office is also involved in promoting the GenComm (Generating Energy Secure Communities through smart renewable Hydrogen) project. P O Hora will circulate a copy of the white paper on this to the committee.

Government's 2040 Plan

Following a lengthy discussion instigated by P Malone, the members also requested a meeting with the Council's SMT in relation to the Government's 2040 Plan. The members are anxious to strengthen the position of Co. Louth in that plan and particularly for the North Louth area and the cross border aspect. They feel that a regional position should be agreed and the Council should seek meetings with Fingal, Meath, Newry and Mourne and Armagh Councils to seek an agreed position.

To commence that process it was agreed that P O Hora will liaise with A Sherry to arrange a meeting including Councillors Tommy Byrne and Colm Markey with SMT representatives— particularly CE and DoS F Pentony.

The date for next SPC meeting is scheduled for 20th September 2018

Confirmed at Meeting held on:

17 OCT 2018.

Signed:


Chairperson