

**Planning & Environment SPC**  
**7<sup>th</sup> December 2016**  
**Cooley Room, County Hall**

**Attendance**

Cllr Richie Culhane	Louth County Council
Cllr Jennifer Green	Louth County Council
Cllr Tom Cunningham	Louth County Council
Cllr Peter Savage	Louth County Council
Richard Barry	Community & Voluntary Rep
Eddie Phelan	Business/Commercial Rep
Brefni Martin	Environmental Rep
Anthony Abbot King	Senior Planner
Pat Finn	Senior Engineer
Frank Pentony	Director of Service
Rebecca Walsh	Assistant Scientist
Sinead McVerry	Senior Staff Officer
Grainne Corbett	Clerical Officer Finance

**Apologies**

Cllr Antóin Watters	Louth County Council
Cllr Maria Doyle	Louth County Council
Cllr John McGahon	Louth County Council
Breffni Martin	Environmental Rep.
Michael Smyth	Farming/AgricultureRep

**Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting which took place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016 were proposed by Cllr Peter Savage and seconded by Richie Barry.

**Matters Arising**

The chairperson advised LCC staff member Grainne Corbett had requested to sit in on the meeting as an observer as part of Diploma in Local Government Studies course and her request was granted by the chairperson.

**Proposed dates for SPC Meetings in 2017**

The members agreed to the following dates for the 2017 SPC meetings:

Wednesday 1st March 2017	3.30pm Cooley Room County Hall
Wednesday 7th June 2017	3.30pm Cooley Room County Hall
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2017	3.30pm Cooley Room County Hall
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	3.30pm Cooley Room County Hall

### **Report on Joint Inspection Initiative Halloween Bonfire Aversion Arrangements**

Rebecca Walsh, Assistant Scientist, Environment Section highlighted the successful joint initiative between Louth County Council and Drogheda Community Gardai to address the burning of waste tyres and pallets at Halloween. The initiative, which was implemented in 2014, saw the establishment of a joint project between Louth County Council and Drogheda Community Gardai to identify sources of waste tyres and to investigate how the tyres are being disposed. In addition the issue of theft and illegal burning of pallets was also highlighted and addressed.

Rebecca advised the meeting that during 2016 a total of 95 inspections were carried out by LCC staff and thirty Section 18 Notices were served on tyre fitters requiring the tyre operators to keep records on quantity of tyres and waste disposal arrangements.

The 2016 report concluded the joint initiative has curbed the quantities of waste tyres being burned on Halloween Bonfires in Drogheda and the feedback from the Drogheda Area Office, the local Gardai and Fire Services has been largely positive. It is anticipated the joint initiative will be continued in 2017.

General discussion ensued and the committee members agreed the above scheme was a good example of pro active action having a positive outcome. It was suggested the local authority should engage in a media awareness campaign and engage with Drogheda Chamber in 2017 to encourage and remind local business to keep tyres and pallets stored way safely as Halloween approaches.

It was confirmed that the cost of disposal of any illegal tyres was met by the local authority.

With regard to the theft of tyres from silage pits in rural areas Cllr Savage requested if the local authority could explore alternative methods of weighting silage.

Richie Barry informed the meeting the village of Knockbridge had problems with a large bonfire in 2016 and suggested if the problem persists in 2017 the tidy towns group in Knockbridge should be advised to contact the community garda for the area and the local authority to collectively deal with the issue

### **Pay by Weight – Update**

Pat Finn, Senior Engineer gave the SPC members a verbal update on the pay by weight scheme. He informed them the pay by weight scheme was initially to take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 with a price freeze in place until the end of June 2017.

Mandatory dual pricing was to be introduced 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2017, house holders were to receive a dual invoice outlining their current bill and their costs if paying by means of pay by weight system and be given the option of moving to the new regime. A major awareness campaign aimed at encouraging people to reduce waste was also to be launched in the 2017.

Minister for Communication Denis Naughton recently announced dual pricing is now being deferred pending a review with stakeholders representing consumers, the Department, and the waste industry .

Pat Finn also informed the committee members the Eastern Midlands Regional Waste Management Office are planning to organise a special collection day at Dundalk Civic Amenity Centre & Drogheda Civic Amenity Centre in early 2017 for the collection of hazardous waste including household waste such as paints, weedkiller and pesticides. E.Phelan suggested the local authority should launch a media campaign to highlight this matter to give members of the public sufficient notice of the collection dates.

#### **Uptake on Shop Front Improvement Grant Scheme**

Anthony Abbot King, Senior Planner updated the committee members on the implementation of this scheme in 2016. He advised the purpose of the scheme is encourage high quality commercial frontages which use a variety of architectural styles. During 2017, 28 applications were received in respect of the scheme 13 in Dundalk, 9 in Drogheda and 6 in Ardee. Of these 28 applications received 13 applications have been approved to date. He also advised he intends to give a further presentation to the committee members in 2017 presenting photographs of the shop fronts before and after the improvement grant scheme.

#### **Uptake on Rates Incentive Scheme/New Business Incentive Scheme**

Louth County Council is currently administering two schemes : The new business incentive scheme , the aim of the scheme is to provide a grants incentive to new businesses to locate in premises that have been vacant for a period exceeding two years and to encourage diversity or retail opportunities within a designated area. The meeting was informed that there had been numerous enquiries regarding the scheme and that 3 applications were approved thus far these were The Loft Café in West Street Drogheda, Head Office in Drogheda and Eskay's Bistro in Park Street, Dundalk.

The Senior Planner also advised the committee members of the Small Business Support Scheme, which is available to all businesses with a rate demand of €5,000 or less. To date 199 applications have been received in respect of this scheme, 47 in Dundalk, 47 in Drogheda and 105 in the county area including Dunleer, Ardee & Blackrock and Carlingford. The cost of credits raised against the scheme is €28,749 to date.

Eddie Phelan suggested LCC should publicise the successes of the business incentive schemes / shopfront scheme to date.

The meeting concluded at 4.30pm and the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 1st March 2017 at 3.30pm in the Cooley Room, County Hall.

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

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

**Chairperson**

**Meetings Administrator**

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

**Senior Executive Officer**

