

**Minutes of the Planning & Environment Strategic Policy Committee  
held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in the Cooley Room, Louth County Council, County Hall,  
Millennium Buildings, St. Alphonsus Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth**

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**IN ATTENDANCE**

<b>Cllr. Maria Doyle</b>	<b>Louth County Council (Chairperson)</b>
<b>Cllr. Anne Campbell</b>	<b>Louth County Council</b>
<b>Cllr. Tom Cunningham</b>	<b>Louth County Council</b>
<b>Cllr. John McGahon</b>	<b>Louth County Council</b>
<b>Cllr. Peter Savage</b>	<b>Louth County Council</b>
<b>Michael Smyth</b>	<b>Agricultural Representative</b>
<b>Eddie Phelan</b>	<b>Business/Commercial Voluntary Representative</b>
<b>Richard Barry</b>	<b>Community/Voluntary Representative</b>
<b>William P. Walsh</b>	<b>Acting Director of Operations &amp; Local Services, Louth County Council</b>
<b>Emer O'Callaghan</b>	<b>Senior Executive Planner, Louth County Council</b>
<b>Keith Hanratty</b>	<b>Acting Senior Executive Officer, Operations, Louth County Council</b>
<b>John O'Hagan</b>	<b>Senior Engineer, Environmental Compliance, Louth County Council</b>
<b>Lorraine Quigley</b>	<b>Senior Staff Officer, Planning, Louth County Council</b>

**APOLOGIES**

<b>Cllr Richie Culhane</b>	<b>Louth County Council</b>
<b>Cllr Antóin Watters</b>	<b>Louth County Council</b>
<b>Breffni Martin,</b>	<b>Environment/Conservation Representative</b>

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Proposed by Cllr. Tom Cunningham and seconded by Richard Barry, the minutes of the Planning and Environment SPC meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were adopted.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**Green Fleadh**

Referring to the Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann 2018 which will be held in Drogheda from Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2018, and also the fact that Drogheda has secured the Fleadh for 2019 also, Cllr Campbell said that it was an opportunity to host a Green Fleadh, referring to the environmental aspect of hosting the event and in particular waste management. She queried if the Committee could have role or possibly have an influence in year 2 of the Fleadh. She added that she would like to make contact with the Environment Section of the Council and proposed that a representative be invited to a committee meeting after the Fleadh 2018 to give a presentation on how consumables were managed, what worked and what didn't and lessons learned for the 2019 event. She added that perhaps the committee could develop ideas to assist in 2019. Lorraine advised that she thought Barry Easton, Senior Staff Officer was the contact in this matter and agreed to check and forward contact details for Barry to Cllr. Campbell.

### **Waste Collection Service – who uses it?**

Following from a question posed at the previous meeting regarding mapping of waste collection service users, John O’Hagan, Senior Engineer advised the committee that the National Waste Collection Permit Office ( NWCPO) which is based with Offaly County Council are considering having discussions with waster collectors regarding their areas of collection and that it was hoped that by a system of reverse engineering, they may be able to plot users indicating who has a green bin, brown bin etc.

### **Illegal Dumping**

Following on a discussion on illegal dumping at the last meeting , Richie Barry asked for clarification on what the enforcement procedures were for illegal dumping.

John O’Hagan responded and advised the committee of the enforcement procedures in place and the Litter Management Plan with an on the spot litter fine of €150, rising to €400 to €600 at court and a maximum of 3000 for illegal dumping on a summary conviction.

John O’Hagan agreed to give a presentation on waste management at the next meeting of the committee. It was agreed that, in the meantime, the committee would be sent a link to the relevant policies.

## **STRATEGIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS**

### **PRESENTATION BY EMER O’CALLAGHAN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE PLANNER.**

Emer O’Callaghan, Senior Executive Planner presented an update on the progress of the Strategic Housing Development initiative (SHD). New legislation which allows for this type of application was enacted on 19th December 2016 and the associated regulations come in to effect on 3 rd July 2017. This new type of application has been introduced as part of **Rebuilding Ireland** to speed up the planning application process and accelerate delivery of larger housing and student accommodation proposals.

Setting out the background to the change in procedure, Emer explained that planning applications for housing developments of more than 100 residential units and 200 plus student bed spaces can now be made directly to An Bord Pleanála.

**Stage 1:** Pre-Application Consultation Pre-application consultation is mandatory for prospective applicants prior to making an application for strategic housing development (SHD). Prospective applicants consult first with the relevant planning authority and then with An Bord Pleanála who will form and issue an Opinion as to whether documents submitted constitute a reasonable basis for an application or whether further consideration or amendment to the documents are required. Guidance and pre-application request. The local authority opinion is scrutinized on their approval that it complies with national and local policies.

**Stage 2:** Planning Application Applicants will submit applications for SHD directly to An Bord Pleanála. Applications are to be decided within a mandatory 16-week time period which also includes a public consultation period and submission of a report by the planning authority.

To date, Louth County Council has engaged with 12 developers, 1 application has progressed to ABP and 1 will shortly be lodged. Emer advised that the whole process has been a learning curve in terms of change of policy, emphasis on higher densities – minimum 30 units per hectare. The whole process is 16 weeks with no facility for further information. Emer advised that planning authorities are still finding their way. Decisions from ABP have been very mixed with split decisions or refusals. Density has become a big thing in provincial areas with 50 to 60 units to the hectare in urban areas or areas adjacent to public transport. She also stressed the need for new housing developments to have a sense of place and public amenity designed into the schemes. Vista is very important.

### **LCC RECYCLING POLICY**

A general discussion ensued around waste plastic, littering and recycling in general, non reusable waste from takeaways, pollution into streams and rivers.

It was agreed that more information is necessary to educate the public on recycling

It was noted that the Environment Section has responsibility for a range of environmental issues including

- Waste Management.
- Promotion of waste reduction.
- Promotion of recycling and responsible waste disposal.
- Permitting of waste facilities and waste collectors.
- Implementing regulations controlling waste streams including, waste tyres, end of life vehicles, waste electronic and electrical equipment, farm plastics and food waste.
- Promotion of Litter Control through both education and enforcement.
- Protection of surface waters and ground waters from pollution.
- Aarhus Convention: National Implementation Report

It was agreed that a substantial re-education programme is required to inform and remind the public of what services are available and what their role is in improving the percentage of waste in Louth going to recycling. John O'Hagan advised that he would contact the Community Section of Housing & Community to see what education or awareness programmes they have planned.

### **USING PLASTIC FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION & REPAIRS PRESENTATION BY COUNCILLOR ANNE CAMPBELL**

Councillor Anne Campbell gave a brief presentation on using plastic for road construction and repairs. She explained that this process was currently in operation in Cumbria Council in the UK and could prove advantageous to Louth County Council. Councillor Campbell explained that plastic waste is collected and shredded into small pellets. The pellets are mixed with a small amount of hot bitumen and the mixture is laid like regular asphalt. No new equipment is required. Councillor Campbell advised that she was very interested in having discussions with the relevant section to see if this could be progressed within Louth County Council.

**Lorraine Quigley advised Councillor Campbell that she would make an appointment for her to speak to Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer, Operations & Local Services.**

**ACTIONS FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the following presentations would be brought forward to the next meeting.

- Louth County Council Climate Adaption Strategy – John O’Hagan
  - Presentation of Waste – John O’Hagan
- In addition**
- Lorraine Quigley to arrange meeting between Cllr. Anne Campbell and Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer, Operations & Local Services.
  - Lorraine to get confirm contact details for relevant staff member for Cllr Anne Campbell so she can discuss proposals made in relation to Green Fleadh.
  - Lorraine to send link to Committee regarding litter and waste management.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

As there was no further business, the meeting ended at 6pm.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September in the Cooley Room, County Hall at 4.30pm.**