

Minutes of Climate Change and Energy Strategic Policy Committee

Monday 30TH January 2023

In Attendance: SPC Chairperson Cllr. Liam Reilly, Cllr. Marianne Butler, Pat Mulligan, Eugene Conlon, Cllr. James Byrne, Cllr Paula Butterly , John Carroll

Officials: Joe Mc Guinness Director of Service, David Hanratty Senior Engineer, Rory Sheehan Climate Action Coordinator

Apologies: Cllr. Kevin Callan, Cllr. Tom Cunningham, Miriam Simon

1. Minutes Adopted

The minutes for the 7th November 2022 meeting were adopted.

Proposed by Pat Mulligan

Seconded by Cllr. Liam Reilly

2. Matters Arising

Nothing raised

3. Presentation on Louth County Council EU Mission on Climate Adaptation – Rory Sheehan

Rory gave a brief overview in relation to Louth County Council participation in the EU Mission on Climate Adaptation. Presentation attached.

Cllr Paula Butterly queried what thimelines were for risk assessments and subsequently developing actions for Coastal Erosion and flood risk assessment, and given the possible flooding impacts over the next 20 years can we afford to wait to take action.

Rory Sheehan commented that this will be done under the Climate Action plan. Being part of the EU mission will lead to improved risk assessment will help and will help in developing long term plans. Cllr. Butterly was referred to the CFRAMS project for flood risk assessment.

Cllr. Marianne Butler requested that presentations be circulated on Decision Time prior to meetings.

4. Presentation & Discussion of Climate Action Community Fund

Rory Sheehan deliverd a brief presentation on the Community Climate Action Fund. Presentation Attached.

Cllr. Paula Butterly queried the criteria for groups to apply, such as schools or joint applications.

Cllr. Marianne Butler queried when the details will be available? Also whether a BIDs company or Shopping & Retail company could apply? Could and SEC apply?

Cllr Liam Reilly queried funding criteria.

Eugene Conlon asked whether funding would be purely capital or whether labour could be included?

Rory Sheehan responded with limited detail, as he was not yet in possession of the full scheme rules.

5. Discussion on Climate Action Communications Strategy

David Hanratty advised that the Climate Action team wish to develop a communications strategy and was looking for input from the SPC members.

Cllr. Liam Reilly commented that a bureaucratic process around for leader grants is onerous.

Cllr. Marianne Butler suggested that the monthly CEO report could be fleshed out with Climate Actions picked out and expanded.

David Hanratty commented that small projects raise awareness among the community

Cllr. Marianne Butler welcomed the press release from the CEO around the retrofitting of social housing. It would be good to see a more detailed breakdown of the breakdown stats around this story.

Eugene Conlon commented that the human stories around the retrofitting are very important.

Cllr. James Byrne commented that lives are transformed by houses that have been retrofitted

Technology around new heating systems was identified as a barrier by several members and perhaps improved training and information would help.

Eugene Conlon suggested that engagement with young people needs to be increased

Eugene Conlon commented that 16 schools and 2 businesses will be visited as part of outreach. A section around energy and water-quality could be added to the show.

Cllr Paula Butterly commented that education for children is effective. Kids "will have you tortured" to adopt environmentally friendly habits they learn in school. We need the next step after this as the message gets lost on older people.

Eugene Conlon commented that Cooley SEC has 3 main members and 20 school children.

Cllr Paula Butterly commented that Continuing education is important, not just one large education event a year. Series of shows and tell events for the public at the weekends, Mini events.

6. Review of SPC Workplan

Joe Mc Guinness stated that the SPC workplan has been circulated. The members could/can discuss what needs to be prioritised for this year on this plan. What would the members like to add?

Cllr Paula Butterly and Eugene Conlon welcomed IFA representation on the SPC . It will help bridge gaps between the council and the IFA.

Cllr.Liam Reilly recalled that members had talked about adopting a county climate ambassador before. This should be revisited. The members can meet to discuss on 20th of February.

Cllr.Liam Reilly suggested that the SPC should look at a policy for community gardens and allotments

Joe Mc Guinness said the executive will tally up the workplan and present at the next meeting.

7. A.O.B

Nothing raised

8. Next meeting for Drogheda, Fairstreet meeting room on the 27th of March at 4:30pm.

The minutes confirmed at a meeting of SPC held on:
29th May 2023

SPC Chairperson:

