

**Minutes of Climate Change and Energy Strategic Policy Committee meeting held via Zoom Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

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

**Officials:** Joe Mc Guinness Director of Service, David Hanratty Senior Engineer, Rory Sheehan Climate Action Coordinator, Helen Hanratty Bio Diversity Officer, Denise Meegan Assistant Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Miriam Simon

**1. Minutes Adopted**

The minutes of the meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were adopted.

Proposed by Cllr. Liam Reilly

Seconded by Cllr. James Byrne

**2. Matters Arising**

Nothing raised

**3. Draft Louth Climate Action Plan**

David Hanratty informed the members that Louth County Council commenced the Public Consultation period on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and it remains open until 20<sup>th</sup> December.

After this period the Chief Executive will prepare a report, which will be brought back to the SPC for recommendation prior to the Council Meeting.

The Plan must be adopted by 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Rory Sheehan gave a presentation outlining the Themes contained within the plan, the Actions relating to each theme and the Process from the planning through to the implementation and Delivery of the Plan.

Rory Sheehan also outlined the options for making a submission. He advised that there will be Drop-in Clinics in Dundalk, Drogheda, Dunleer, Ardee and Carlingford over the coming weeks where the Plan will be discussed and members of the public can make a submission.

He also advised that the Plan is available to view on the Website, in the Council Buildings, in the County Libraries and also on [consult.louthcoco.ie](http://consult.louthcoco.ie)

Rory Sheehan invited questions and a discussion followed.

Eugene Conlon requested that the slides with specific dates be circulated to members.

Cllr. Liam Reilly requested that the presentation be circulated to all members.

Eugene Conlon queried when the Community Climate Action Fund is open. Rory Sheehan confirmed it will go live in early December.

#### **4. Update on Community Gardens & Allotments**

Helen Harratty, Bio Diversity Officer, gave a brief summary of the draft Community Gardens and Allotments Issues Paper which had been distributed prior to the meeting.

She outlined the key benefits in the Provision of Community Gardens and Allotments within the County and the different strategies in which they could be promoted.

She also outlined the challenges and barriers which have hindered the adoption and success of Community Gardens such as availability of suitable land, lack of funding and resources and a need for greater awareness and community engagement.

Helen Harratty invited questions and a discussion followed.

Eugene Conlon suggested the availability of a Case Study from another Local Authority which would assist in engaging with communities.

Cllr. Marianne Butler suggested the possibility of engagement with schools.

Cllr. Liam Reilly queried the issue of Insurance for the landowner. He also asked if there could be a checklist setting out what needs to be in place.

Joe McGuinness agreed that more work would be carried out on the Issues Paper.

#### **5. AOB**

Eugene Conlon provided an update on the Kildare County Council Staff Exhibition on Climate Action and suggested the possibility of holding this in Louth County Council.

**That concluded the business of the meeting.**

**Next meeting to take place at 4pm on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 via Zoom.**

**The minutes confirmed at a meeting of SPC held on:**

29 Jan 2024

**SPC Chairperson:**

