

Minutes of Climate Change and Energy Strategic Policy Committee meeting held via Zoom Monday 25th September 2023

In Attendance: SPC Chairperson Cllr. Liam Reilly, Cllr. James Byrne, Cllr. Marianne Butler, Cllr. Paula Butterly, Eugene Conlon, Pat Mulligan, Meabh O'Hagan Teagasc

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

Apologies: Miriam Simon

1. Minutes Adopted

The minutes of the meeting of 21st August 2023 were adopted.
Proposed by Cllr. Liam Reilly
Seconded by Cllr. Paula Butterly

2. Matters Arising

Nothing raised

3. SPC Workplan Objective – Engagement with Agricultural Sector – Guest Speaker Meabh O'Hagan, Teagasc

Cllr. Liam Reilly welcomed Meabh O'Hagan and introduced her to the members.

Meabh O'Hagan gave a presentation on the Signpost Advisory Programme and outlined how this programme is a collaborative partnership of farmers, industry and state agencies working together for climate action.

Meabh O'Hagan outlined the Government and EU Policy Targets, the Teagasc Climate Action Plan and the Steps to getting actions taken within the farming community.

She invited questions and a discussion followed.

Meabh O'Hagan advised that some case studies had been carried out for the advisors and these could be used for presenting to communities.

Cllr. Marianne Butler asked if there were incentives for farmers to do this.

Meabh O'Hagan stated that the financial benefit was the incentive for farmers to carrying out these measures.

Cllr. Paula Butterly requested figure for number of farmers in Louth who have taken part so far. Meabh O'Hagan advised she doesn't have figures at present but stated that she will provide an update in December for the year 2023.

Cllr. Liam Reilly thanked Meabh O'Hagan for her presentation.

4. Update on Community Gardens & Allotments – National Strategy

Rory Sheehan stated that Allotments are dealt with under the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (2009) guidelines from the department. These guidelines are in the process of being updated.

These are contained within the Planning and Development Bill 2023, which is under review and is with the Oireachtas

'Community Gardens Ireland' website provides information and works with groups to assist them with setting up community gardens.

David Hanratty outlined the difference between 'Community Gardens' and 'Allotments'. He stated that there is more demand in Dundalk and Drogheda now and they should be promoted within County Louth by creating an environment for people to set up allotments.

Joe McGuinness stated that the Executive will draft an Issues Paper and this would be brought to the next meeting on 27th November 2023.

It was agreed that Louth County Council would have a policy which covers both Community Gardens and Allotments.

5. AOB

Eugene Conlon advised the members that he attended the recent MD meeting and outlined what the Climate Change & Energy SPC has been doing over the past year.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Next meeting to take place at 4pm on 27th November 2023 via Zoom.

The minutes confirmed at a meeting of SPC held on:

27 Nov '23

SPC Chairperson:

