

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment, Climate Action and Agriculture Strategic Policy
Committee held in The Dock, St. George's Terrace, Carrick on Shannon on
Wednesday, 9th November 2022.**

Members Present:

Councillor Caillian Ellis (Chairperson)
Councillor Paddy Farrell
Councillor Justin Warnock
Councillor Sean McGowan
Eddie Mitchell (IFA)

Officials Present:

Vincent Dwyer, Director of Services
Marie Mulligan, Senior Executive Engineer
Laura McEnroe, Waste Enforcement Officer
Martina Casey, Administrative Officer
Christina Bohan, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies:

Councillor Felim Gurn
Councillor Gerry Dolan
Jan Melia (PPN – Environmental Pillar)
James Madden, Veterinary Officer
Patricia Holahan, Staff Officer

1 Adoption of Minutes of Meeting of Environment, Climate Action & Agriculture SPC held on 31st August, 2022.

The Minutes of Meeting of Environment, Climate Action and Agriculture Strategic Policy Committee held on 31st August, 2022 were approved on the proposal of Councillor Paddy Farrell and seconded by Mr. Eddie Mitchell.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

3. Septic Tanks Remediation

The Members received a presentation from Ms. Marie Mulligan, Senior Executive Engineer on the remediation of septic tanks. Ms. Mulligan stated that septic tank inspections are carried out on a risk based assessment with specific criteria to be followed. The Members discussed issues regarding percolation area and surrounding ground condition problems in the county. A discussion followed regarding the implications involved in septic tank grant applications and the issue of not qualifying for grant assistance if septic tanks were not

registered by householders prior to 1st February, 2013. Any queries raised by the Members were addressed by Ms. Mulligan. Councillor Sean McGowan stated that it would be beneficial if a public awareness campaign could be arranged regarding the importance of the maintenance and de-sludging of septic tanks.

A recent social media campaign on Tik Tok regarding litter awareness has been very successful and could be explored for septic tank maintenance awareness.

4 Update on Irish Water

The Members received an update on Irish Water from Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services. Mr. Dwyer informed the Members that a Framework Document regarding the transition of water services was produced in June, 2022 and that Irish Water will soon be taking over full control of water services. Informative roadshows will be held in the near future for staff to assist them with the making of the decision to transfer to Irish Water or remain as a local authority employee. The Members were informed that the rural water supply will remain within local authority control. Councillor Paddy Farrell enquired if any funding is available for group schemes but was informed by Ms. Marie Mulligan that the Council is awaiting funding for all existing group water schemes. A discussion took place regarding legacy concerns of group water schemes and estates which will not be taking over before the transition of water services to Irish Water. Mr. Dwyer stated that a Memorandum of Understanding was agreed nationally and that hopefully Irish Water will take responsibility for these issues.

5 Update on Climate Action

Mr. Vincent Dwyer, Head of Finance, Water, Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Services gave an update to the Members on Climate Action. Mr. Dwyer stated that funding has been received for the position of Climate Community Officer and 2 No. Senior and Executive positions. Recruitment will take place in the near future for the commencement and development of the Climate Action Plan by March 2023 with the preparation to be completed within a 12 month timeframe. Leitrim County Council along with Cavan and Monaghan County Councils have employed Consultants to carry out risk assessments for determining any background context challenges as regards to our 2030 targets. The presentation is scheduled to be ready by mid December 2022.

6 Update on Waste Management

Ms. Laura McEnroe, Waste Enforcement Officer gave an update to the Members on waste management and stated that Leitrim County Council has recently appointed an additional Waste Enforcement Officer. Councillor Caillian Ellis stated that it is crucial to highlight cases where waste convictions are successful in order to raise awareness of the outcome for any illegal dumping practice. Ms. Marie Mulligan, Senior Executive Engineer stated that Hazardous Waste Collection days were held in Manorhamilton and Carrick on Shannon and

that the facility was extended to the Civic Amenity Sites in Mohill and Manorhamilton for anyone who could not attend on those specific days. Mr. Eddie Mitchell enquired if agricultural waste qualified under hazardous waste and Ms. Mulligan clarified the event was for household hazardous waste and included household hazardous waste from farmers.

7 AOB

Mr. Vincent Dwyer asked the Members to inform him of any policy areas which they would wish to discuss on the Agenda of future SPC meetings.

Councillor Sean McGowan asked if issues regarding the taking over of estates in the County before the transition of water services to Irish Water could be listed on the Agenda for the next meeting of the SPC.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
Councillor Caillian Ellis
Chairperson

SIGNED: _____
Vincent Dwyer
Head of Finance
Director of Water,
Environment, Climate Action
and Emergency Services

DATE: Thursday, 15 December 2022