

# County Wicklow Public Participation Network

## Representative Report

Please complete and return to [countywicklowppn@gmail.com](mailto:countywicklowppn@gmail.com) within one week after each meeting.

**Name of Committee:** Transportation Water & Environmental Services SPC

**Name of Representative:** Tim Morgan

**Date of Meeting Attended:** 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017

### **Most important actions or issues to emerge from a County Wicklow PPN perspective:**

The Agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 16/12/16
2. Environmental Services – General Update
  - a. Blue Flag
  - b. Dog Pound Operation
  - c. Energy Awareness
3. Environmental Services – Waste Management - WERLA Priority 2017
4. Roads & Transportation Services – General Update
  - a. Allocations NTA/TII
5. Any Other Business

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read and agreed and signed off.

#### 2. Environmental Services – General Update

It was reported that Wicklow County Council (WCC) has applied for Blue flags for 4 beaches including Bray South beach. Blue Flag beaches must achieve high standards in four areas: water quality, environmental management, environmental education & information and safety & services. The council will know by May if their applications have been successful.

Bathing waters are monitored for water quality between 1<sup>st</sup> of June and 15<sup>th</sup> of September. In total 11 areas are monitored, 6 of which are obligatory (Bray South, Greystones South, Silver Strand, Brittas Bay North, Brittas Bay South and Clogga) and 5 more which are voluntarily monitored by the council (Bray South of harbour, Kilcoole, Murrough, Wicklow Harbour and Arklow South).

It was reported that the memorandum of agreement between WCC and the ISPCA will continue and a further 3-year contract has been awarded to the ISPCA under Section 15 of the Control of Dogs Act 1986. It was also stated that WCC have been advised that the procurement of any service in relation to Control of Dogs and the operation of the dog pound is a matter for the local authority.

It was stated that all dogs should be micro-chipped and it is hoped to set up a database of all dogs. There are two dog wardens in County Wicklow who among other duties check for dog licenses. The meeting was generally in agreement with the sentiment that only a few dogs are currently licensed.

A presentation on energy awareness included a summary of the results of the energy usage survey of the offices at County Buildings. It showed several ways in which energy could be saved and that occupants in over 50% of rooms complained of drafts. The Energy Awareness team have completed the Engaging People programme with SEAI and have signed up for the OPW scheme – Optimising Power at Work.

Under National Waste Priorities 2017 the headings were: Illegal Dumping including C & D waste, Household Waste Management Compliance including brown bin, End-of-life Vehicles and Tyres Producer Responsibility Initiative (RPI). There will be more monitoring of areas prone to dumping, permitted site and construction sites. There will be an emphasis on the segregation of food waste for businesses. Authorised facilities for

vehicle disposal will be inspected. REPAK ELT will allow tyres to be tracked from when they enter the market until they are disposed of. The issue of disposing of tyres on a bonfire in Arklow and the dumping of waste on the Wallboard site was raised by Councillor Fitzgerald.

The councillor also reported that the transport of soil into a site near Hudson's pit on the County Wicklow border is giving rise to a lot of complaints from locals in relation to the manner in which the trucks are being driven, the damage to the road verges and the route that is being taken. It is unknown where the source of the soil is but a permit would be required for the movement.

#### 4. Roads & Transportation Services – General Update

On behalf of the Director of Services Michael Flynn Sen Engineer gave a presentation on roads. He outlined figures to be spent by TII on improvement and maintenance of national roads and by NTA & RMO on other roads. The largest amount of €600,000 is being spent by TII on improvement at Knockroe Bend realignment. The NTA & RMO projects are for smaller works such as cycle lanes and footpaths, etc. Under the Department of Transport Tourism & Sport he listed non-national road projects including bridge rehabilitation and low cost safety schemes totalling €6,899,661.

In relation to the M11/N11 corridor study Mr Flynn stated that TII are engaging with WCC and interested parties. They have also received comments from NTA and DLRCC. There are still significant issues to be addressed but TII are hoping to finalise the study in 2-3 weeks. Cllr Mitchell stated that the study report needs to be sensitive to potential objectors.

The submissions received on the review of speed limits are being assessed. It is expected that the new bye-laws will commence in the summer of this year.

The cost of public lighting in 2016 was €1.89m, of which €0.98m is for energy and €0.70m for maintenance (€0.19m for specific repairs and €0.02m for misc. costs). Public lighting accounts for about 56.5% of the council's total energy consumption and 69.8% of all the electrical energy used by the council. A LED (light emitting diode) lighting project is proposed for Arklow.

It was reported that the Council is currently filling vacancies for General Operatives as result of retirements.

#### 5. AOB

Paddy Mordaunt brought up the issue of the vulnerability of the rock armour at the north beach near Arklow. The section is from the north pier to the caravan park. The storms of the winter of 2016 did damage. He said the rock is being undermined where the fines are being dragged out. Groynes had been proposed in the past to help arrest erosion but the OPW were not agreeable. He suggested that the armour be raised by between 1 and 1.5m. The problem is sourcing funds as existing funding cannot be used for maintenance.

Cllr Fitzgerald said the path on top of the armour is badly damaged in places and he has been told the armour is in a dangerous state.

The rep brought up the issue of a faulty public light in Woodlands estate not being repaired despite several reports by him over the past year-and-a-half. The light, being on a pedestrian access, is slightly inaccessible and the excuse being used by Airtricity is that repair requires the use of a ladder. He also reported a recently installed light in the pumping station compound at Woodlands which seems never to go off!

Cllr Pat Doran asked for the **graveyard** burial policy to be put on the agenda for the next meeting. The sub-committee on graveyards will meet before then.

**Date of Next Meeting:** 29<sup>h</sup> of May 2017 at 2.30pm