

County Wicklow Public Participation Network

Representative Report

Please complete and return to 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: 20th March 2019

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

The Agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1. Minutes of meeting held on 5th of Dec 2018
2. Presentation of WCC Draft Climate Adaptation Strategy
3. Update on Car Parking - County-wide Contract
4. Next meeting
5. Any other Business

1. Minutes of previous meeting

As Cllr Pat Doran was unwell Cllr Daire Nolan chaired the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed off.

2. Presentation of WCC Draft Climate Adaptation Strategy

As background Carlow County Council supplied Wicklow with templates and held a workshop. A consultant has been appointed to assess if a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) is required for the strategy.

James Callery of the Environmental Services section gave a PowerPoint presentation on the draft Strategy.

The Strategy is being driven by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act of 2015. Under Section 5 National Adaptation Framework (NAF) which was approved in December 2017 are the Sectoral and Local Authority (LA) Adaptation Strategies and the Wicklow County Council Adaptation Strategy must be adopted by the end of September 2019.

Adaptation is the process of taking action to address the climate changes that have occurred and those predicted, e.g., planning for less frequent road gritting but for more intense winter storms. Mitigation is taking action to prevent the effects of climate change, e.g., the installation of solar PV panels to generate renewable electricity. The strategy will influence the Council's policies to ensure the operations are resilient.

Wicklow County Council Adaptation Strategy takes on the role as the primary instrument at local level to:

- Ensure an understanding of the key risks and vulnerabilities of climate change;
- Bring forward the implementation of climate resilient actions in a planned and proactive manner;
- Ensure that climate adaptation considerations are mainstreamed into all plans and policies and integrated into all operations and functions of the Local Authority.

The Strategy consists of 6 chapters:

Chapter 1: Introduction and Background

Chapter 2: Regional and Local Context

Chapter 3: Adaptation Baseline Assessment and Case Studies

Chapter 4: Climate Risk Identification

Chapter 5: Adaptation Goals, Objectives and Actions

Chapter 6: Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

The presentation included looking at an example of baseline assessment (the weather event was the heatwave and drought of summer 2018 which was assessed under Governance & Business Operations and Infrastructure & Built Environment) and case studies of major events, e.g., Hurricane Charlie in August 1986, Storm Barney in November 2015, etc. and their impacts.

The Adaptation Goals, Objectives and Actions of Chapter 5 are discussed under 6 themes:

Theme 1: Local Adaptation Governance and Business Operations

Theme 2: Infrastructure and Built Environment

Theme 3: Land-use and development

Theme 4: Drainage and Flood Management

Theme 5: Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure

Theme 6: Community Health and Wellbeing

For example the objective of Theme 1 is to ensure that climate adaptation is mainstreamed into all activities and operations of the local authority.

The Draft Strategy will be submitted to Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) on 29th March and then it will be presented to the full Council meeting of 29th of April 2019.

The Draft Strategy goes to the public for consultation for 4 weeks in May ending on 29th. The first meeting of the new Council will be on the 1st of July and it is anticipated that the final Strategy will be adopted at the Council meeting of 2nd of September 2019.

3. Update on Car Parking - County-wide Contract

David Forde, Bray District Administrator gave a brief summary on the car parking update. APCOA Parking Ireland Ltd will be providing Managed Car Parking Services for Arklow, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow for a period of 2 years from March 2019.

APCOA will provide traffic wardens for Arklow, Greystones and Wicklow town while Bray has 3 traffic wardens employed by Wicklow County Council. APCOA will maintain all parking machines/meters and manage cash collections while Bray MD will be responsible for administration duties.

4. Next Meeting

It was said that this SPC will probably be reconstituted as the Planning, Development and Environment SPC.

The next SPC meeting will likely be in Sept/Oct 2019.

5. AOB

As there was no other business Cllr Nolan adjourned the meeting. As he is standing down as a Councillor he was wished every success in his future career in the private sector.