

# 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:** 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2018

### **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 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2018
2. Presentation on proposed Litter Management Plan
3. Presentation on Recycling Centre charges/facilities nationally
4. Presentation on Energy Efficiency obligation
5. Discussion on columbarium walls
6. Update on the draft bye-laws for the presentation & segregation of household waste
7. Discussion on parking in Newtownmountkennedy
8. Fix date and decide focus for 2019 meetings
9. Any other Business

#### 1. Minutes of previous meeting

CLlr Pat Doran chaired the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed off.

#### 2. Presentation on proposed Litter Management Plan 2019-2024

James Callery of the Environmental Services section gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Plan. The plan sets out targets and objectives for tackling the litter problem under 5 headings: Education & Public Awareness; Litter Prevention & Control; Enforcement; Community Participation; and Recycling & Recovery.

The draft plan goes to the elected members and the public for consultation and after amendment is then adopted and published.

The local authority, businesses and the public all have responsibilities. Community engagement is encouraged via Tidy Towns, residents associations, Coastcare groups, PURE Mile, schools, businesses and youth groups. There was discussion on fly tipping and dumping, surveillance and monitoring of popular dump sites using CCTV.

#### 3. Presentation on Recycling Centre charges/facilities nationally

A review of the charging arrangements at recycling centres around the country has been conducted by Martin O'Flaherty. A comparison of charging policies by up to 32 local authorities shows that the general non-charging policy of Wicklow is similar to the Dublin authorities and Waterford City.

The majority of local authorities charge for taking mixed recyclables with the rate between €1 and €6 with an average charge of €3. For example, Westmeath County Council imposes a gate fee of €3 for most recyclable materials.

Nearly all counties that accept household hazardous waste impose a charge for this service. It can be covered under the gate/entry fee or as a separate charge. Wicklow and Kerry don't charge.

Another finding of the review was that Wicklow is one of the few counties that have no provision to accept domestic household waste and/or bulky waste with most counties taking both.

Apparently the introduction of charges at recycling centres was discussed at a recent Council meeting and it was decided not to change from the existing policy of no charge.

#### 4. Presentation on Energy Efficiency obligation

Marc Devereux did not give his presentation but instead made some comments. The Council Energy Team is being led by Joe Lane. Wicklow ranks near the bottom of the league. A graph showed that Wicklow would have to achieve a 20% reduction in energy in one year in order to reach the target. The energy rating for the Council buildings is apparently D1, which is low.

The national lighting project to convert to LED lights will help to bring the country up the rankings.

#### 5. Discussion on columbarium walls

There is a plan to have one columbarium wall in each of the 5 districts of the county. They could be built in those parts of the cemeteries that can't be used for burials. The photos of the walls made them look imposing and perhaps something smaller could be done closer to the graves. There are columbarium walls in Naas and in the Dublin cemeteries. The districts can decide what they want to do on this issue.

#### 5. Update on the draft bye-laws for the presentation & segregation of household waste

Marc Devereux indicated that the draft 'County of Wicklow (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-laws, 2018' discussed at the last SPC meeting have since been adopted by the Council.

#### 7. Discussion on parking in Newtownmountkennedy

It can be difficult to park a car in Newtownmountkennedy as many parking spaces are being used as a Park 'n' Ride for buses to Dublin. The residents don't want the introduction of pay parking and the Council are reluctant to build a car park. There is some parking available at Dunnes Stores but it may not be convenient for some shops.

#### 8. Next Meeting

The next SPC meeting will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2019.

#### 9. AOB

ClIr Pat Fitzgerald brought up the issue of speeding on Beech Road in Arklow. The revised speed limit of 80km/h is too high and he wants the lower limit of 60km/h to be restored by the Council. The rep agreed that speeding on this road is a serious issue in view of the shop, church and many residences on this straight section of the road.

The rep mentioned that he would like preference to be given to the clearance of snow from footpaths rather than the snow from the road being cleared onto the footpaths making it hazardous for pedestrians.

ClIr Nolan enquired about stocks of salt for the roads this winter. It was stated that there is a lot of salt in store for this purpose.