

14th May 2018

To the Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

**Chairperson's Report for the Environment Strategic Policy Committee Meeting of 23rd
April, 2018**

As a quorum was not present after twenty minutes from the agreed starting time of the meeting, or at any time during the meeting, the formal SPC meeting did not take place.

The Agenda for the meeting had scheduled three presentations for information and consideration.

The Chairperson decided to proceed with the meeting and to allow the presentations to proceed in the context of an information meeting only.

Item 1: Minutes of Environment SPC Meeting held on 26th February 2018

The Minutes of the meeting of the Environment SPC Meeting held on 26th February 2018 could not be adopted as a quorum was not present.

Item 2: Presentation on the Work of the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLA's) – Mr. Nick Bond, Co-Ordinator, WERLA, Southern Region

Mr. Nick Bond (Coordinator with the Southern Region Team) of the Waste Enforcement Lead Authorities (WERLA) delivered a presentation on the enforcement activities and priorities of WERLA.

Mr. Bond described the regulatory context and the present challenges that arise in relation to the enforcement of waste management legislation.

He explained that WERLA's inspection and enforcement models aim to coordinate waste enforcement actions, and set priorities and objectives for waste enforcement.

Mr. Bond explained that the co-ordination of waste enforcement actions and agreement on key priorities and objectives for waste enforcement facilitates the consistent enforcement of waste legislation across the three waste management planning regions of Connaught-Ulster, the South, and the East & Midlands.

Mr. Bond stated that WERLA aims to drive environmental improvements by targeting key environmental risks. He explained that the WERLA Work Plan 2018 identifies a number of enforcement priorities such as waste tyres and the illegal dumping of construction and demolition waste.

Mr. Bond also provided an update on the 2017 Anti-Dumping Initiative and explained that funding for the Initiative was increased from around €35k to €45k for 2018.

Mr. Bond explained to the Members that waste enforcement requires a multi-agency approach across a number of State bodies. This includes local authority personnel who act as first responders to specific breaches of waste legislation.

Mr. Bond also confirmed that litigation is an important component of waste enforcement strategies and he cited a number of successful cases that were instituted by WERLA.

Item 3: Report on Team Limerick Cleanup 4 – Ms. Sinead McDonnell

Ms. McDonnell gave a presentation in relation to Team Limerick Cleanup 4 (TLC4). TLC4 took place on Good Friday, 30th March 2018.

Ms. McDonnell advised the Members that Team Limerick Cleanup is based on a real partnership approach between all stakeholders, including; Limerick City & County Council, the TLC Steering Group, the Gardaí, the Civil Defence, Community Groups/Councils, Tidy Towns, businesses, schools, sporting groups, families and residents associations etc.

The main points from the presentation were as follows:

- 571 groups comprising of 18,500 volunteers participated in TLC4.
- 98 tonnes of litter was collected with approximately 37,000 hours of litter picking.
- Mr. Binman crews travelled approx. 2,000km collecting litter at 275 collection points.
- 76 Schools participated in TLC4, the majority of the schools completing the cleanup before the Easter holidays.
- Tidy Towns Groups provided significant support and assistance to the TLC4 campaign in the following areas;
 - Registering groups and assessing areas for cleanup.
 - Getting the message out in their town or village.

- Attending Health & Safety meetings.
- Collecting clean up supplies.
- Organising the meeting area and meeting time.
- Providing H&S Toolbox talks and sign in sheets before litter picking
- Organising the social aspect, building community spirit, team building etc.

Ms. McDonnell advised the Members that TLC4 was a huge success with new groups and new areas participating in the campaign. She stated that there was an increase in the total litter picking hours with the overall tonnage of litter collected also increasing from previous years figures.

Ms. McDonnell advised the Members that the Council is awaiting the details of the Waste Characterisation Statistics for TLC4. The results of the Waste Characterisation Study will provide full details and statistics on all of the litter collected during TLC4.

She also advised that a long-term approach is required in tackling the problem of littering explaining that a range of solutions involving a large number of stakeholders is essential.

Members commended the work of all stakeholders involved in TLC 4 and congratulated everybody who had taken part in the event. They highlighted that Team Limerick Cleanup is a fantastic event that promotes significant anti-litter awareness, encourages people to take pride in their communities, brings people together and generates fantastic community spirit.

Item 4: Presentation on Energy Efficiency Improvements – Mr. Pat Stephens, Manager, Limerick Clare Energy Agency

Pat Stephens (Manager of the Limerick-Clare Energy Agency) delivered a presentation on residential energy efficiency. Mr Stephens explained that energy emissions from Irish homes are 58% above the EU average as a result of Ireland's relatively large consumption of coal which provides 50% of residential fuel consumption, whereas coal constitutes 20% of the average EU residential energy consumption. Mr Stephens explained that other EU countries such as Sweden, Denmark and Lithuania place a greater reliance on electricity, timber, district heating.

Mr. Stephens stated that the first step in improving energy efficiency is to improve the fabric of buildings thereby reducing heat loss. He stated that in order to meet national energy efficiency objectives carbon intensive fossil fuels such as coal, peat and oil will need to be eliminated and replaced with renewable energy sources such as biomass, solar thermal, solar photo voltaic, and geothermal heat pumps.

Mr. Stephens confirmed that there are a number of financial supports available to property owners under the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Better Energy Homes Pilot.

He explained that under the Better Homes Scheme and other schemes 25% of Limerick homes have received an energy efficiency upgrade. He stated that this was the highest percentage in the country.

It was agreed that Mr. Stephens presentation would be circulated to the Members after the Meeting.

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Jerome Scanlan

Chairperson of the Environment Strategic Policy Committee