

Date: 6 November, 2019.

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

**Chairperson's Report for the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy
Committee Meeting held on 22 October, 2019.**

In Attendance:

Councillors Scanlan, (Chairperson), Benson, Collins (B), Collins (M), Galvin, Hartigan, Secas, Sheahan (K), Sheahan (M), Talukder, Teskey.

Apologies:

Cllr O'Donoghue

Officials:

Mr. Brian Kennedy (Director of Service), Mr. Dara McGuigan (A/Senior Executive Officer), Ms. Anne Goggin (Senior Executive Engineer), Ms. Brid Quinn (A/Staff Officer), Ms. Assumpta Leahy (Clerical Officer), Mr Pat Stephens, Limerick Clare Energy Agency.

Also in attendance:

Cllr Sheehan (C), Dr Christy Boylan

Item 1: Presentation on Green Infrastructure – by Dr. Christy Boylan

Mr Kennedy prefaced the item by advising that Physical Development Directorate is in the early stages of developing a Green Infrastructure Strategy. Dr. Christy Boylan gave a very insightful presentation on Green Infrastructure based on examples from around the world. He spoke about the emerald green belt in Boston and the Garden City movement in Britain. He showed examples of how Limerick could develop its existing green infrastructure to create a more holistic model.

The Members thanked Dr. Christy Boylan for his excellent presentation and the Committee discussed a broad range of topics including climate action, promotion of biodiversity, wetlands management and support for Tidy towns groups.

Item 2: To agree work programme for Strategic Policy Committee

Mr McGuigan gave a presentation on the Proposed Work Programme for the Committee and that if members had any ideas for policy to come to either himself or Anne Goggin.

The Members welcomed the presentation and raised a number of matters relating to the proposed work programme including tree and hedge management, river's trusts, grass cutting policy, slurry spreading. The Director of Service advised Members that the Council was participating in a national programme to retrofit all public lighting heads with LED lights.

Item 3: Presentation on ISO 50001 Energy standard – by Mr. Pat Stephens, Limerick Clare Energy Agency

Mr. Stephens gave a comprehensive presentation on ISO 50001 energy standard which the Council is currently trying to secure. The main items outlined were as follows:

Energy Use to Date 2019
Significant Energy Users
Energy Performance against National Targets
Energy Management System – Drivers
Energy Management System – ISO 50001 Standard
ISO 50001 – Time Line

The Members thanked Mr Stephens for the presentation.

Item 4: Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. C. Sheehan (deferred from Metro Meeting)

“I will move at the next Metropolitan Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that the Council put a management plan in place to rejuvenate the Westfield Wetlands”.

Cllr Sheehan, in moving the motion, noted that there was a substantial growth of reeds in the wetlands which was having a detrimental effect on the flora and fauna of the wetlands. He advocated that a management plan was required to rejuvenate and the area. In a written response the Director of Service advised that the Council is currently in the process of arranging for the reeds to be removed, and that there would need to be ongoing monitoring and removal of the reeds into the future.

Cllr Hartigan proposed an additional motion that independent environmental consultants be engaged to develop a comprehensive management plan for the wetlands. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Benson. Cllr Sheehan was agreeable to the amended motion.

In responding Mr. Kennedy suggested that Ms Goggin and Heritage Officer, Tom O Neill could do a workshop for the Members. This workshop could talk off line, discuss the topics of concern and revert back to members.

Cllr Sheehan thought a workshop would be a good idea and requested that this be progressed.

The meeting then concluded.

Is mise le meas,

Jerome Scanlan

Chairperson of the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Strategic Policy Committee