

Environment & Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 24th January 2017 at 9.30am, Old Reference Library, Council Offices, Farnham Street, Cavan

Present: Cllr. W. Bennett, Cllr. F. Curtin, Cllr. V. Smith, Cllr. M. Argue. T. Cooney (Agricultural Pillar), G. Finn (Director of Service), P. Connaughton, (Sen. Engineer) C. O'Callaghan (A/Sen. Engineer), C. Craven (AO), C. Boylan (LMO).

Apologies: Cllr. D. Brady (Chairperson)

It was agreed that Cllr. F. Curtin would Chair the meeting.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were proposed by Cllr. M. Argue and Seconded by Cllr. W. Bennett

2. Matters Arising

Ger Finn advised that Council officials met recently with Bus Eireann in respect of the IBAL. He reported that Bus Eireann had agreed to work with the Local Authority in relation to issues highlighted in that report and that this matter will be kept under review.

3. Discharge Licences

Liz Doherty, Assistant Engineer explained that trade effluent and some domestic effluents are licenced under the Water Pollution Acts (1977 1990) and that the two principal types of discharge licences are (i) those that discharge to the Sewer and (ii) discharge to rivers, lakes and ground waters. Liz stated that the requirement to have discharge licences to the sewer and rivers, lakes etc. protects the County's environment. She advised that applications (in respect of discharges to sewer) are made to Irish Water with assessment being undertaken by Cavan County Council. Applications pertaining to water and ground water are made directly to the Local Authority. Liz's presentation also included details of the monitoring process and number of discharge licences in place in Co. Cavan.

4. Progress report on Tidy Towns

The Administrative Officer noted the increase in the number of tidy towns committees from 13 in 2013 to 21 currently. He advised members of current developments. He pointed out that many committees were now working on local projects in the area of waste prevention projects and wildlife and habits, which he added reflected changes in the National Tidy Towns Competition..

There was a general discussion in relation to the problem of illegal dumping. The Director of Service acknowledged that the prevalence of illegal dumping had increased in the County and that much of it was apparent in the form of roadside litter and takeaway litter. Cllr W. Bennett referred to rubbish being dumped on the Ballinagh to Kilnaleck Road. In reply, G. Finn stated that clean ups of Cavan Bypass and Ballinagh Road were planned. He concluded by stating that all litter and waste complaints are investigated by council staff.



5. Presentation of Area of Natural Constraint

T. Cooney, I.FA stated that this EU review of the Areas of Natural Constraint (ANC) was applicable across all Member States. He pointed out that 75% of the country's areas was designated as ANC., with over 95,000 Farmers in receipt of support payments. He stated that all of County Cavan is designated as being severely handicapped or mountain type land. He advised that payments totalling €9.5m were made annually to over 4,900 farmers in Co. Cavan. He cited the IFA's policy as follows:

- **All areas should maintain their current status;**
- **Funding for ANCs nationally must be restored to their pre-2009 level i.e. €250m;**
- **Payment rates should be pitched at the level that reflects the natural handicap for various areas;**
- **Cavan farmers must benefit with payment levels being increased.**

A number of members highlighted the importance of the ANC designation being retained for Co. Cavan in its present form and its role in supporting the rural economy.

The members resolved to fully support the IFA's policy in relation to the retention of ANC for Co. Cavan.

6. Casual Trading

The Administrative Officer gave a brief outline to the members on same. The Director of Service stated that a detailed presentation on the matter would be given at the next meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee.

7. AOB

No matters arising.

Date of next meeting

8th March 2017 @ 9.30am Council Chamber, Courthouse, Cavan