



Minutes of Environment & Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Held on Wednesday 12th March 2025, 2:30pm at The Chamber, Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel MD Offices,
Rosanna Road, Co. Tipperary. E34 WD51.


In the Chair:	Cllr. Sean Ryan
Members Present:	Ms. Mary MacMahon (PPN) (By Zoom) Cllr. John Carroll Cllr. Peggy Ryan Cllr. Amy Goldsboro Cllr. Phyll Bugler Mr. Charles Stanley-Smith (PPN) Mr. Brian Pope (Environmental) Mr. Darragh Scott (Agriculture)
Officials Present:	Mr. Michael Moroney, Senior Executive Officer Mr. Denis Holland, Senior Engineer Mr. Fergal Condon, Administrative Officer Ms. Maeve Egan, Staff Officer Ms. Lorraine Kelly, Clerical Officer (By Zoom) Mr. Eamon Lonergan, Director of Services
Apologies:	Cllr. Pat English Cllr. Eddie Moran Cllr. Declan Burgess Cllr. Pamela Quirke O'Meara Cllr. John Fitzgerald Ms. Sarah Fogarty (Business) Mr. David Philip (PPN)

Agenda Item	Action
1. Welcome	The Chair convened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
2. Disclosures/ Conflicts of Interest	N/A
3. Minutes of meeting held on 2024	The minutes of the SPC meeting held on the 4 th of December were approved as proposed by Cllr. John Carroll, and seconded by Cllr. Peggy Ryan.
Matters Arising from the meeting	It was confirmed that the request to facilitate evening meetings, which was discussed under Item 4, Draft Standing Orders, was forwarded to Corporate Services for consideration.
4. SPC work Programme for 2025 for consideration	The SPC Work Programme 2025 was approved as proposed by Cllr. Peggy Ryan, and seconded by Cllr. John Carroll.
5. Environment & Climate Action Section Update	Mr. Moroney delivered an Environment & Climate Action Section update to the Committee. The Chair opened the floor to questions. A request was made to circulate the TCC Local Authority Climate Action Plan Annual Progress Report for 2024 and that a presentation be given at a future meeting. This was agreed.



		<p>The members commended the work of the Galvin brothers of Living Woodlands recently featured on RTE programme Home Grown, who are creating biodiverse living woodlands in Tipperary.</p> <p>Applications and payments for Community Climate Action Fund were also discussed. It was noted that TCC can provide stage payments to grant recipients, bridging the timeframe between when drawdown requests are made by TCC to the Department. The Community Climate Action Officer, Marie O'Donnell is available to take any queries grant recipients may have.</p> <p>Agricultural inspections across the county were discussed, and it was noted that engagement is positive overall. Members were advised that staff members on the agricultural inspection team are proactively working with farmers to address issues on an individual basis. Staff are trained to deal with incidences of pollution, as well as sensitive issues. The overall aim of inspections is to meet EPA targets to improve water quality in the County. It was confirmed that the EPA display farm inspection reports at www.epa.ie.</p>
6.	Burial Ground Development Policy Update	Mr. Holland confirmed that the Burial Ground Development Policy as approved by the Committee is being presented to the TCC Plenary meeting on the 14 th of April for adoption.
7.	PPN Pillar Update	<p>The PPN Group delivered an update to the Committee.</p> <p>Items discussed included agricultural inspections, water quality in the county, and education on clothes banks and the circular economy.</p> <p>An update was requested on the Pesticide Use in Local Authorities project. Kildare County Council (Lead on project) will be contacted to present to the Committee on progress at a future meeting. The Council's Biodiversity Officer, Annmarie Fleming will also be invited to attend a future meeting.</p>
8.	Dates of Next Meeting	Further SPC Meetings in 2025 will be held at 2:30pm on, Wednesday 11 th June, Wednesday 10 th September, and Wednesday 10 th December.
9.	Correspondence	N/A
10.	AOB	<p>The Chair brought the Silvermines Hydro Project to the attention of the committee. The project is currently in design assessment and development consent phase. The Chair proposed that as this significant proposed project may be of interest to members, the project team, Siga Hydro, be invited to present a briefing at a future SPC meeting. This was agreed by the members.</p> <p>Document sharing was also discussed. Public documents are available on the TCC website. Members were advised that draft policy documents are circulated to committee members at SPC level for consideration, which then may be approved and brought to the TCC plenary level.</p>

Signed:


Chairperson

Date:

11/06/25
H. EGAN