

## Linkage Group Meeting 04 August 2021 (Pre Q3 SPC)

**In attendance:** Jennifer Whitty, Judith Browne, Sean o Broin, Mary Jennings, Cliona Kelliher, Fionnuala Corcoran, Niamh Young, Stephanie Jones, Colm Kenny, Ann Behan, Deirdre Lane, Gerry Dornan

**Apologies:** Ali Sheridan, Emer Conway

### Minutes

#### 1. Matters Arising from June Minutes

##### County Development Plan:

Following on from the May SPC where the elected members were made aware of the comprehensive linkage group CDP submission, the LG wanted to get clarity on the timeline of further review stages.

**Update:** The Chief Exec's report on the pre draft submissions, dated 30<sup>th</sup> April was published on the consultation portal but the LG were not made aware of it until a query was made by us on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

As part of the pre draft stage, a special Full Council meeting to consider the Chief Exec Report was held on 29<sup>th</sup> June. The elected members submitted almost 150 motions for consideration at this meeting. An email from Jude was sent on 15<sup>th</sup> June to all elected KCC council members with our submission again attached and our expectation that it would be taken into account when submitting motions to the County development plan on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> of June. The motions are viewable on the KCC website under Full Council Agendas.

The draft plan will now be compiled and will be published in October. Elected members will consider the draft plan in Oct/Nov. It will go to public consultation in Jan/Feb 2022. Ali and Jude will request that the CDP be kept as a standing agenda item at the SPC.

##### Glyphosate:

A lengthy discussion was had at the May SPC about the use of Glyphosate. Overall it is disappointing that currently only Parks are not spraying. We, the linkage group need to continue to apply pressure through all the forums available to build awareness both within the council and outside community groups on the dangers of glyphosate. We agreed to:

Look at other council's policies (eg DLRCOCO) on glyphosate use - what have they implemented and what is stopping KCC from following those model

Investigate what the council process is for ensuring the correct plan of action is being followed wrt glyphosate use and who to report breaches to

Form a plan for next SPC

**Update:**

Jude took us through a presentation from Dublin City Council on their actions to bring about a total ban on Glyphosate use there. It was agreed that Jude would seek to contact the relevant individuals in DCC to gain better understanding of what was done.

A discussion was then had between the group about the use of glyphosate in farming and that the big win is for the farming community to ban the use of glyphosate. It was noted that Farming policy is not under the remit of KCC and that while we all in agreement that glyphosate should cease to be used in farming, we should focus on what we can achieve as a linkage group feeding into KCC policy.

Ann suggested we could request the farming representatives on the SPC to support the development of an app to alert communities when farmers are spraying.

Sean suggested that we could make a complaint to the EU if sufficient progress is not made at a national level here.

Mary mentioned that she is aware of research being carried out in Maynooth University into alternatives to glyphosate and offered to make contact with the dept with a view to meeting with the linkage group.

Ann made us aware of an industry led program in the uk that promotes best practice in pesticide use through enhanced adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in order to protect water and the environment [About Us - Voluntary Initiative](#)

It was agreed for Jude to contact the DCC individual and report back. It was also agreed that Mary would contact the research dept in MU and report back. Jude will suggest the development of an APP to the farming reps if an opportunity arises at the SPC.

Jude updated the group that she had been in contact with KCC to find out what the process is for reporting Glyphosate breaches to. The response from KCC was that breaches should be notified to the Environment Section who will log the complaint and then send a technician out to the site to investigate.

## **2. Items to be brought to Q3 SPC:**

1. Air Quality monitoring: Can an update be provided to the SPC on the status of air quality monitoring throughout the county. What air quality monitoring is KCC responsible for and are there plans to expand this monitoring network, in particular in Naas? (Ali Sheridan)

2. Active Travel Roles: Can an update be provided on the status of Active Travel roles within the local authority? How many roles are planned to be established and what stage is recruitment at? (Ali Sheridan)

3. What is the status of the KCC climate action plan and what are the timelines now that the National Climate Bill has been published.

Is there an opportunity to build stronger consultation with the PPN outside of the SPCs?

4. Would it be possible to have the agenda of forthcoming SPC meetings earlier so we can prepare for the meeting and could we get the minutes of the meetings ASAP please?

5. Could CDP updates become a running item on the Climate Action SPC agenda?

Also Judith wishes to update the SPC on some glyphosate and hedgerow protection ideas (5mins).

### **3. AOB**

Sean asked that the following is raised in the SPC: that a requirement for proof from resident's associations of adherence to the recommendations of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan be looked for before grants are awarded. Jude agreed to add it to the list of motions/questions for the SPC.

Sean also spoke about the need for communication and dissemination of information for 2022, perhaps even the provision of a Code of Practice to highlight the necessity for reduction in grass cutting so as to let wild flowers and plants continue to bloom. Jennifer and Cliona mentioned the publication of the All Ireland Pollinator plan that targets individual group such as RAs, Sports groups, community groups etc and the promotion of the AIPP to residents associations through social media channels. The fact that it is a voluntary commitment means it is difficult to enforce and it is not clear what else KCC could do about this.

KCC Speed limit review: There followed a conversation in relation to the speed limit review with agreement from all that it is not acceptable to be increasing speed limits at a time when we should be promoting safe walking and cycling. Gerry mentioned that there is a public consultation ongoing at the moment and that Maynooth Cycling Campaign is rejecting the review. He encouraged everyone to make a submission. Closing date is 25<sup>th</sup> August.

### **4. Dates for Next Meetings:**

**Date of next linkage group meeting** 6th Oct 21 - to discuss Sept SPC

**Deadline for SPC Agenda Submissions:** 11th Aug

**Date of next SPC meeting:** 8th Sept 21

### **Actions Arising from This Meeting:**

Contact Dublin City Council re Glyphosate Ban	Jude/Cliona
Contact Maynooth University wrt Glyphosate alternative research with a view to them attending a linkage group meeting	Mary
Add Sean's request detailed under AOB above to the Sept SPC list of motions/questions	Jude

