

Linkage Group Meeting 06 October 2021 (Post Q3 SPC)

In attendance: Ronan O Reilly, Cliona Kelliher, Jennifer Whitty, Judith Browne, Ali Sheridan, Mary Jennings, Colm Kenny, Gerry Dornan, Emer Conway, Fionnuala Corcoran, Kevin Mullen, Ursula King

Apologies: Sean o Broin, Sean Darcy, Suzanne Murphy, Ann Behan

Minutes

1. Linkage Group Tracker Review

We reviewed the linkage group tracker that lists & tracks the items brought to the SPC by the linkage group. We discussed the responses received and decided actions to be taken which are documented below and in the tracker. Some items such as Air Quality Monitors and the CDP review were deemed by the director of services to have cross over with other SPCs (Env/Water & Planning). A good discussion was then had about the cross over and it was decided that the SPC reps can work together to raise common interest issues across SPCs.

The county development plan is a major policy document currently in draft stage. The question was asked as to how the CA SPC as an entity feeds into the policy making process. This remains unclear and a follow up question will be asked in the Q4 SPC. Residents Association Grants - At the SPC, Jude asked if proof of adherence to the AIPP can be a condition to resident's associations receiving grants. The feedback was positive - the Policy itself is coming up for review in 2022 and the KCC grants team welcome the input of the linkage group. Jude has received the current policy and Jennifer will distribute it to all.

The KCC climate action plan will remain on the agenda for Q4 SPC.

2. Q3 SPC Minutes Review

Ali took us through the SPC minutes she documented for the Q3 SPC.

There followed a discussion on Public Realm and Derelict Sites.

Public Realm:

Feedback from the linkage group on the public realm presentation received by the SPC was that while overall a very positive project with evidence of strong team building, the LG have concerns around the priority of cycling and biodiversity within public realm projects. A follow up question is to be asked of the public realm team to ascertain if there is a biodiversity expert on their team. This also led to a discussion on where Bio Diversity sits and on which SPC workplan (Env/Water or CA) and how is biodiversity plugged into all aspects of KCC policy. It was mentioned that a biodiversity rep should be present on each SPC. WRT cycling, GD asked how many public realm spaces are dedicated to cycling and noted that priority is not given to cyclists. GD has also written to TDs in relation to difficulties with access to the Greenways. The greenway access gates are sub standard.

Derelict Sites FC raised the issue of derelict sites and asked when the derelict sites register was last updated. There followed a discussion on how this is a big issue nationally that legislation is changing around the issuing of fines and also that many vacant sites can not be used due to national regulations around accessibility. RoR mentioned that there is a webinar from the Heritage Council being held in Oct and will forward details. It was agreed that a question around derelict sites should be formed offline and brought to the Q4 SPC.

3. Draft of Items to be brought to Q4 CA SPC (Ali/Jude)

- Derelict Sites (Question to be formulated by Fionnuala/Ursula)
- CAP (Climate Action Plan) how it will reflect updated Government policy including the Climate Bill, updated national Climate Action Plan and Sectoral Emission Ceilings and can clarity be given about how Climate will take precedence over the NDP?
- CDP - Discussion and Clarity needed on how this SPC feeds into the county development plan review as per the following extract from KCC's SPC Scheme 2019-2024 Document Section 2.1 SPCs & The Council : The SPC system is intended to give councillors and relevant sectoral interests an opportunity for full involvement in the policy making process from the early stages, when policy options are more fluid. Therefore, much of the preliminary and background work, discussions and recommendations should be completed at SPC level for final consideration and ratification by the plenary council

Draft of Items to be brought to Q4 Env/Water SPC (Emer)

- Biodiversity - How is Biodiversity plugged into all aspects of policy (exact question to be formulated by Ursula and Fionnuala)
- 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?

4. Dates for your Diary

Date of next linkage group meeting 10th November - Pre Q4 SPC Meeting

Deadline for SPC Agenda Submissions: 25th October

Date of next SPC meeting: 1st Dec 2021