

Oversight Committee on Animal Welfare

Wednesday 14th July 2021

Meeting via Teleconferencing (Zoom)

9.00am – 9.45pm

Minutes

In Attendance:

Cllr. Deirdre Heney (DH)
Cllr. Caroline Conroy (CC)
Cllr. Donna Cooney (DC)
Cllr. Cieran Perry (CP)
Sergeant Angela Bates (AB)
Garda Gillian Duffy (GD)
Martina Kenny (MK) (My Lovely Horse)
Catherine Lawlor (CL) (Department of Agriculture)

Officials:

Brendan Kenny, Deputy Chief Executive (BK)
Pat Teehan, Senior Executive Officer (PT)

Minute Taker: Michael Carey Clerical Officer

1. Welcome

- Third official meeting of the Oversight Committee
- Dog Pound & Horses Issue

2. Update on Dog Pound.

- Committed to change- full support of DCC- enforcement by Animal Welfare. Tenders unsuitable.
- (PT) Hollygrove Kennels based in Newcastle contracted for 4 Months/ Dog Trust to rehome Veterinary College to Spade etc/ our vet vaccinate etc. SDCC wardens to assist.
- (CC) Good to have plan B- foster/ rehome dogs/how quickly could we react if a large seizure of dogs happened Tender Problems how was it dealt with.
- (DH) No longer using Ashton great.
- (CP) Public to be updated/ How many Wardens/encourage to work with other dog associations.
- (PT) Hotel for Pets Had some issues allegations DCC had to be unbiased / Resolved immediately /Hollygrove 4 months tender- ready to go public/ Wardens 2 N-side-2 S-Side. Looking for 2 immediately(HR looking @ this) – Vans, equipment sourced fitted out- Decisions on tenders have to made other councils / inclusive remove barriers that were in last contract-full tender from now on.
- (DH) DCC looking for long term & DCC controlled.
- (BK) Hollygrove is a safe place/ committed. – Looking forward now. Recruitment is slow process- sorted by Sept.
- (DH) Disappointed No warden info on web Page
- (CC) At this stage to do it right- Well done to team getting this far along-
- (BK) We will update web page with Info with panel Between 8 & 10 on it.
- (CL) Are dog numbers in pound increasing/decreasing.



- (PT) Number reducing year on year at present. Expect trend to change post Covid.
- (BK) How many dogs in pound
- (PT) Eight At the moment/Expected to rise when Covid restrictions are lifted.
- (MK) Well done to DCC for moving away from current provider - 3 other Local councils haven't. - web site to be update.
- (DH) No issues with announcement of new temporary contract.
- (BK) No problem with announcement.
- (MK) Garda stations to be notified with Posters Info – Contacts given out
- (AB) Well done to DCC- inform ASS Garda Commissioner Annmarie Cagney to get out to All Superintendents
- (GD) Agree 100% with info - After hours contacts needed
- (PT) Email already sent to Assistant Commissioner
- (GD) Not circulated properly.
- (DH) To write to ASS Garda Commissioner Annmarie Cagney.

3. Horse issues

- (DH) Lack of enforcement of legislation- Horses left tethered on DCC land- Housed in back gardens – ill treatment - Get message out there that this is unacceptable - Can have horses but need to be cared for & homed properly - DCC have duty of care – Authorised officers to deal with these issues. Animal Welfare Unit already dealing with these issues.
- (MK) Summertime kids are given gifts of ponies/horses- Educate people –get the message out- DCC & Department Agriculture mean business –posters-social media cruelty will not be tolerated –suggest increased fines
- (DH) Good guidance/advice
- (AB) Guards are not trained in animal welfare issues - Training - inform ASS Garda Commissioner Annmarie Cagney – Public representatives to push this With DCC from the outside
- (DH) Will and have raised this before
- (GD) Lack of knowledge within Animal Welfare – Seminars-training- by My Lovely Horse
- (MK) Readers for microchips to be made ready available –Stations-training
- (DH) DCC to lead the way on issues raised
- (CL) Will follow up the availability of readers

Next Meeting: Monday 13th Sept 2021 @ 9.00am via ZOOM