



**Minutes of the Meeting Environment Strategic Policy Committee,
held on 14th October 2015.**

1. Dublin Waste to Energy Project update report

The Director of Traffic circulated a revised dust monitoring report and pointed out that there were two errors in the report that issued in June. He also pointed out that the dust deposition rates in the revised (accurate) report were in fact less than rates stated in the initial report.

PM Group have been written to outlining DCC's dissatisfaction with the quality of the information provided and seeking an explanation how the errors occurred. Assurances have been sought that this will not arise again.

Members raised the following items / issues

- **Resolution on the determination of the value of the Community Gain Fund**

The Chairperson of the Committee wrote to An Bord Pleanála seeking advice on the correct interpretation for determining compliance with Condition 3 of the planning permission

- **Status of the letter to An Bord Pleanála**

A reply from the An Bord Pleanála has not yet been received. A copy of the letter is to be circulated to Members of the Committee.

- **Who pays the rent for the Local office.**

DCC owns the building so rent charges are not applicable.

- **Location of the Local Office, it should be located in the vicinity of the Communities directly affected.**

The Director of Traffic agreed to examine the feasibility of having the Local Office moved to Ringsend Library.

- **Source of the waste to supply the DWtE plant, as reply to Councillor Claire Byrne's question indicated that it would be sourced in the Greater Dublin Area.**

The Project Engineer pointed out that the reply to Councillor Byrne's question specifically stated that the waste for the DWtE facility will be predominantly sourced from the Dublin region.

- **Role of the Community Gain Liaison Committee – Terms of Reference, Auditing of funds distributed.**

The Director of Traffic advised the committee that the primary role of the Community Gain Liaison Committee is to monitor and distribute the fund. It is also charged with acting as a liaison between DCC, Covanta and the residents.

The Terms of reference of the Committee were presented to the Committee and were agreed at its first meeting.

The Director of Traffic assured the members that rigorous Auditing & Corporate Governance will be carried out in relation to how the Community Gain Fund monies are distributed.

- **Mitigating Measures for Environmental Issues – Requirement for a twice yearly report on the use of green area south of the waste water treatment plant by the wild fowl.**

These reports are available on the DWtE website and will be forwarded to the Members of the Committee.

- **Traffic Management.**

The Director of Traffic pointed out that the project is essentially a building site and when completed these matters are covered quite comprehensively by the planning permission and the EPA license.

- **Is the Dust Monitoring Continuous**

The gauge is dispatched and collected in 20 – 30 days giving a dust deposition value from which a daily dust deposition rate can be determined.

- **It was pointed out that the TA Luft Limit (mg/m²/day) of 350 was exceeded in 25% of the results given**

The Executive Engineer advised that in order to compare against TA Luft limits for Dust Deposition it is necessary to have a full year of data and we do not have enough data as yet to compare it to the 350 mg/m²/day. We should have this data midway through this quarter.

- **Capita Report – SPC Oversight of the DWtE Project**

Mr. McCarthy pointed out that the Capita Report recommended that the SPC should have effective scrutiny and oversight from a governance standpoint of the project. The SPC requires frank internal disclosure of all information requested and this is the purpose of the questions being asked.

The Director of Traffic advised that the trust of the Capita was in relation to governance up to the beginning of construction. He further pointed out that everything DCC has been asked to do have been done in terms of the planning permission granted.

Order: Report Noted

2. SPC reporting to the wider Council on DWtE project

A discussion took place surrounding the issue of reporting on the Waste to Energy Project to the Wider Council and the following points were raised by Members.

- It is vital to report to the wider Council on a project of such importance
- Interaction between the Community Gain Liaison Committee Reports and this SPC
- This SPC should have sight of the activities of the Community Gain Liaison Committee
- One of the fundamental tenets of the Capita report is that this SPC is charged with the oversight and scrutiny of the DWtE and to report to the wider Council for the duration of construction and commissioning
- Report to include contentious issues including value of the CGF, Air Quality and Traffic etc.
- Air Quality on the Poolbeg Peninsula should be the first item on the report
- There should be 2-3 reports issued annually.

The Director of Traffic pointed out that it is not for this SPC to impose conditions on the CGF committee which has elected members among its membership.

Order: The Community Gain Committee to be contacted to request a copy of It's first report. The Chairperson will draft a report on foot of this report and other issues that have been raised at this SPC (Community Gain Fund Value, Air Quality, Traffic etc) over the last number of SPC Meetings.

3. A.O.B

A further discussion was held around Air Quality in general and specifically in the Poolbeg Peninsula. The Project Engineer suggested that it would be dangerous to link air quality in an area with one specific construction project, a project that was considered by the EPA and An Bord Pleanala and where statutory consents were granted.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the EPA Chairperson found that the air quality in the area did breach the relevant standard but the EPA Board determined that this was not a matter for a planning condition. Mr. McCarthy confirmed that the issue of air quality specifically in the Poolbeg Peninsula was the issue of most concern to him.

Mr. Martin Fitzpatrick, Principal Environmental Health Officer gave a report which included the following points:

- There will be a national ban on the sale, marketing and distribution of bituminous fuel.
- A major public consultation is to be launched on Air Quality policy nationally.
- The EPA announced that there will be a full national review of the national Air Quality monitoring systems.
- The EPA is responsible for Air Quality monitoring in the State and DCC operates under the supervision and within the remit of the EPA.
- The Air Quality monitoring campaign 2009 – 2012 was predated for circa 15 years by monitoring by DCC for black smoke at the school on Cambridge Road and the EU limit values were not exceeded or reached. This monitoring was equivalent to Pm 2.5 & Pm 4 monitoring.
- In relation to the monitoring campaign 2009 – 2012, the EPA report specifically stated that limit values were not exceeded during the period of measurement. Limit values are the legal standard.

- Lower and Higher Assessment Thresholds are the technical instructions given by the EU Commission to monitoring agencies on how, where and when monitoring should be carried out and should not be confused with the limit values.
- Most Air Monitoring Stations would exceed the Lower Assessment Thresholds that is why the monitoring is taking place.
- The country is divided into 4 zones for Air Quality monitoring purposes of which Dublin City is 1 zone. If an exceedance of the lower assessment threshold occurs the EU Air Quality Monitoring Standards require monitoring to take place in that zone, not specifically in that location. There is in the region of 20 years of PM10 monitoring in that (Ringsend) location.
- The location of monitoring stations can be part of the EPA review of National Air Monitoring Systems.

Mr. Joe McCarthy, An Taisce – Response

Mr. McCarthy pointed out that as part of the EIS PM10 monitoring campaigns around 2006/2007 published by AWN showed that the EU standard was breached. There was a rate of circa 85 exceedances per year which is above the 35 permitted. He also queried the eastern-most monitoring station and queried if there should be one in the area as that is where the incoming natural pollutants (seaboard, traffic, industry & the port itself) should be measured. If the LAT is exceeded this is precisely where a monitoring station should be located.

**Order: Air Quality to be discussed in detail at the November meeting of the SPC.
Members to be notified when consultation starts on Air Quality Policy.**

Attendance

Members

Councillor Naoise Ó Muirí (Chairperson)
 Councillor Mannix Flynn
 Councillor Andrew Keegan
 Councillor Denise Mitchell
 Councillor Ciaran O'Moore
 Councillor Michael O'Brien
 Councillor Bríd Smith
 Councillor Dermot Lacey
 Robert Moss - Dublin City Community Forum
 Joe McCarthy - An Taisce
 Nicholas Cloake - Dublin Docklands Business Forum

Apologies

Councillor Claire Byrne

Absent

Councillor Declan Flanagan
 Councillor Catherine Ardagh
 Louise McCann - Disability Federation of Ireland
 Sinead O'Brien – Environmental Pillar

Officials

Declan Wallace, Director of Traffic
Helen McNamara, Senior Executive Officer
Brian Hanney, Senior Executive Officer
Martin Fitzpatrick, Principal Environmental Health Officer
James Nolan, Executive Engineer
Ciarán McGoldrick, Staff Officer
Owen Sweeney, Staff Officer

Councillor Naoise Ó Muirí

Chairperson

7th November 2015