

**MINUTES OF TRANSPORTATION
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 02 2017**

Present:

Councillor Darren Scully, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Mark Dalton
Councillor Seamus Moore
Councillor John Mc Ginley
Councillor Réada Cronin
Councillor Anne Breen
Councillor Paul Ward
Jimmy Earle (Rural Transport)

Also Present:

Niall Morrissey, Director of Service
Evelyn Wright, Senior Executive Officer
Celina Barrett, Chief Fire Officer
Chanel Ryan, Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Declan Keogh, Road Safety Officer
Diarmuid Donoghue, Cycling Officer

Apologies:

Councillor Joe Neville
Sean Lawler, Business/Commercial Sector
Cormac Browne, Agriculture/Farming Sector

Peter Kenny (Chambers Ireland) Resigned from Committee

Agenda

Item 1 - Introduction

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee.

Item 2 – Minutes

No matters arising from previous minutes which were proposed by Cllr. Breen and seconded by Cllr. McGinley and adopted. The resignation of Mr. Peter Kenny was recorded and Niall Morrissey(NM) undertook to seek a nomination from Chambers Ireland for a replacement for Mr. Kenny. The Cathaoirleach paid tribute to the valuable contribution and input Mr. Kenny gave to the committee.

Item 3 – Update from the Director of Services

Work Programme

The Director discussed the 2016 Work Programme and suggested that a page should be added at the end for items which had been brought to a conclusion.

It was agreed that the Noise Action Plan would remain on the programme.

J. Earle said that there is no provision for pedestrians on our roads (especially people taking children to Creche and wheeling buggies, etc.) and therefore there is need for more footpaths.

N.M. – advised that there is an analysis ongoing regarding speed ramps in housing estates. The Cathaoirleach suggested that in relation to enforcement and safety, we should request the Superintendent of An Garda Síochána to send a representative to meetings to give input on formulating policies. N.M. advised that a request would be forwarded to An Garda Síochána.

In response to a query regarding clamping in private car parks, N.M. replied that there is no progress. Cllr. Moore advised the meeting that Naas has a bad name for clamping and the Cathaoirleach said this is a problem in most towns in the County

and it is necessary for regulation to be brought in for private companies to move away from clamping.

N.M. – advised that clamping can be listed as an item for attention.

NM provided an update on Funding for 2017 – NTA, €1 Million and €350,000; DOT €18.9 Million (this is up €700,000 on last year) ; Sallins Interchange and By- Pass €7.5 Million; Athy €1 Million.

The M7 Widening and Sallins By-Pass is going out as one contract – Contract to be signed by June/July, work to commence October/November this year and estimate completion by 2019/2020.

Twelve months were spent getting legal agreement and it is now tied down – full details will take to end of February for Roads Plan 2017.

N.M. updated the SPC on work completed in relation to signage– an audit has been carried out on Regulatory Signs – an effort is being made to upgrade signage and to remove unnecessary signs.

The Cathaoirleach asked where did the members of the Naas Steering Group and Working Groups come from and what is the remit of the Group.

N.M. advised that the Groups have representatives from various Departments and their remit is to give a general upgrade/facelift throughout the County. The Group meets approximately every 2-3 weeks. The Parking Group is examining carparks regarding proper lining etc. and how they work and the safety aspect. It would improve them to put correct signs in. Simon Wallace, Parks Section has plans for each roundabout and a tender will shortly be advertised.

Cllr. Moore requested that Craddockstown Road be kept as a walking road out to Punchestown to keep away from traffic routes. N.M. noted his comments.

N.M. discussed bus shelters in the County – suggestions being sought for locations – if the NTA do not fund them, Municipal Districts will contribute.

Item 4 - Fire Service

Celina Barrett outlined various works carried out by the Fire Service and will bring Policy Documents to the SPC in 2017.

Chanel Ryan, presented the Community Safety Policy and explained it to the meeting.

A question and answer session followed and some of the topics covered were:-

Fire alarms in homes – there are a large number of homes in County Kildare and the Fire Service could not supply nor check fire alarms in all of them. Planning Permission now requires new homes to have a fire alarm installed.

Queries arose regarding Halloween fires and the possibility of banning them.

Fireworks displays – the Chief Fire Officer examines organised displays and the Gardaí keep a check on others. Fires at Halloween are illegal – licences are granted by the Department of Justice.

Cllr. Breen thanked Celina and Chanel for their presentation and asked whether Christmas trees can be shredded – they are sometimes left in parks and set on fire. N.M. advised that this an operational matter for the Environment Department and it will be referred for attention.

Cllr. Ward suggested that there is a need to get the message of fire safety out to the public and said if the Fire Service had promotional material that it could be passed on to Councillors for distribution.

Cllr. Cronin enquired if there are any attacks on Fire Brigade personnel and C.B. said no but that at Halloween, the public get annoyed when they see Fire Service as disrupting fun – it is very rare and only a small issue.

A question was raised on fire checks in the home - how do we target areas of risk? CB advised that this issue is targeted through Age Action, Schools and Retirement Groups to reach high risk categories, and pointed out the difficulty of measuring the impact of this intervention.

EW asked if the question whether there is a fire alarm in a household is on the Census Form - CB said it was too late for the last census but the Department is trying to get it on for the next one.

JE asked if Carbon Monoxide alarms are to be provided in homes?

CB advised no, and that fire related deaths are more common so Fire Service won't be providing Carbon Monoxide alarms.

Cllr. Ward asked what is the biggest cause of house fires? CB advised that the Gardaí, not the Fire Service, investigate house fires and their cause – a common cause is people smoking and falling asleep.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Celina and Chanel for a very informative presentation.

Item 5 - Establishment of Kildare Cycling Forum – Draft Terms of Reference

EW gave an overview of the outline terms of reference and advised that Declan Keogh, Road Safety Officer would be the key contact.

It was suggested to nominate one Councillor from each Municipal District.

Membership will also include Diarmuid Donohue, Executive Engineer with responsibility for cycle lanes in the County, two nominees from persons engaged/interested in cycling and three Council officials, including KCC Sports Partnership.

The Cathaoirleach discussed the Cycle Forum and how it would move forward. EW suggested that using the PPN might extend to unmanageable numbers. N.M.

suggested that the Sports Partnership would be best placed to advise. JE

suggested the draft Terms of Reference were very regulatory in nature and that it might not appeal to the ordinary person. Cllr. Cronin suggested a committee of

twelve people. N.M. advised that it will be on the Agenda for next SPC meeting on 4 May and that the Municipal Districts will be requested to nominate a representative.

N.M. advised that EW will introduce the item at the March M.D. meetings.

Item 6 - Road Safety

Declan Keogh delivered a document to the meeting. N.M. congratulated Declan his Road Safety Officer award. The Cathaoirleach congratulated Declan and praised him on his achievements. Cllr. Ward asked why we have highest number of pedestrian fatalities. Cllr. Cronin asked if there any cyclist fatalities. The Cathaoirleach asked if there are statistics for non nationals driving and involved in accidents – Declan said he will be meeting with the RSA next week and he will make enquiries.

Cllr. Moore – it appears visitor/foreign drivers go through roundabouts because they are not on Google maps. DK advised that driver mistakes are not uncommon from visitors/drivers from other Countries.

Cllr. Ward queried the statistic that two thirds of pedestrians killed are due to alcohol consumption, the wearing of dark clothing etc and how some workers, including some from INTEL, come out wearing black non-high visibility gear. DK agreed to liaise with business places. The Cathaoirleach suggested putting up posters in Public Houses advising on drink driving and road safety.

Item 7 - Electric Vehicles

EW presented a draft policy on Electric Vehicles, proposing that if a vehicle is charging there is no liability for Pay and Display. N.M. advised that we should improve signage, place notices in the media and also place the proposal before full Council. EW advised that the signs need to clearly state the 'rules' including time allowed etc. Cllr. Ward asked is this space for charging vehicles off limits to other users and EW confirmed same.

N.M noted a motion put forward by Cllr. Doyle and referred to the SPC, regarding lines in private car parks. NM advised that he would contact Cllr. Doyle to discuss and explain this is not an issue for the Council.

Item 6 - Conclusion

The Cathaoirleach thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 04 May 2017.

ACTIONS FROM MINUTES:

Chambers Ireland have been asked to nominate a replacement committee member for Peter Kenny, Development/Construction Sector.

The Road Safety Officer has arranged the attendance a member of An Garda Síochána at the Cycle Forum quarterly meetings.

The query raised regarding the disposal/shredding of Christmas trees has been referred to Environment Section for attention.