

MINUTES

Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Via Microsoft Teams

06 May 2021

Attendees:

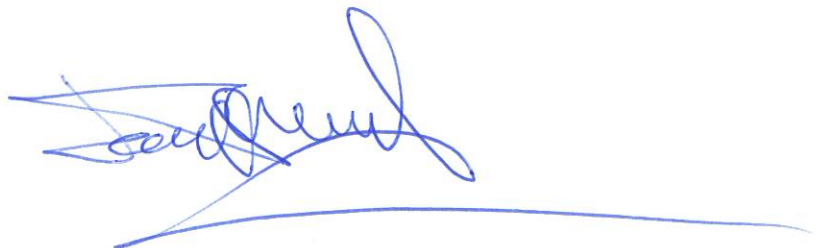
Councillor Joseph Neville
Councillor Anne Connolly
Councillor Angela Feeney
Councillor Colm Kenny
Councillor Nuala Killeen
Councillor Mark Stafford
Councillor Paul Ward
Brian Purcell
Gerry Dornan

Also Present

Celina Barrett, A/Director of Services
David Reel, A/Senior Engineer
John McGowan, Senior Engineer
Declan Keogh, Road Safety, Cycling and Sustainable Transport Officer
Pamela Pender, A/Senior Executive Officer
Marie Kelly, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies:

Cormac Browne



Introduction

Cathaoirleach Joseph Neville welcomed all the members of the SPC to the May meeting.

Item 1 – Minutes- 04 February 2021

On the proposal of Councillor Feeney and seconded by Councillor Connolly the minutes of 04 February 2021 were approved and taken as read.

Item 2 – Declarations of Interest

No Comment.

Item 3 – Work Programme for 2020/2021- Position Papers

The (A/SEO) Pamela Pender advised the committee that the roads department did prepare the following position papers:

- Policy on Electric Vehicles in relation to free parking.
- Parking by adopting colour code instead of street names in Kildare parking app.
- Rural Public Lighting – Rural Public Lighting Scheme

Paper 1 – Policy on Electric Vehicles in relation to free parking.

Pamela Pender, A/SEO proceeded with an overview on the background and findings on paper one. Members were advised that this policy would be premature to proceed as there are a lot of challenges and obstacles in this regard. The council are awaiting guidelines from the Department of Transport. On foot of this, Parking bye-laws would have to be amended accordingly but to name a few. The guidelines from the Department on Electric Vehicles will keep this consistent throughout the county.

Celina Barrett, A/DOS informed the members that the significant guidelines and general principals are due to be published by CCMA/LGMA in mid-May – June 2021 to every Local Authority. Once received a policy document on EV Charging Points for Kildare County Council will be put forward for approval. The impact of these guidelines would bring about a lot of work and challenges.

The members raised the following concerns:

- SPC challenge to set policies across the board based on the guidelines.
- Planning issues need to be at the forefront; ref: County Development Plan.
- Concerns over properties that have not been allocated a parking space.
- Safety Concerns
- Park and Ride – Kilcock (2 EV points requested at this location)

David Reel, A/SE assured the members that the roads planning team would be reviewing each application going forward based on the guidelines received.

The members concluded this discussion and based on the present information, agreed that the report be noted.

Paper 2- Colour Coding on Kildare Parking App

Pamela Pender, A/SEO advised the members that County Kildare wouldn't have enough streets in a zone in any town to implement this. There would be no benefits to adopting this policy. If this policy was to be implemented, it would result in reduced revenue and installing a parking system and drafting/adopting bye-laws from scratch which would be costly for Kildare County Council.

The members raised the following concerns:

1. Identify a clearer approach of streets on the Kildare App
2. Streamline the App
3. Appeal rules to be reviewed.
4. Consideration be given for over payment on parking tickets

Cathaoirleach Neville highlighted that a member of the public had picked a wrong street on the app and to them it was the correct street but was issued a fine for that reason. Consideration needs to be adopted in these cases.

Pamela Pender, A/SEO assured the committee that fines in this regard have been minimal. She advised the members that the technical staff in the roads department are working on all parking bye-laws as they approach review. She informed the member that signage could be looked at as part of the review. She agreed to

circulate the timeline of all the reviews on Parking Bye-laws to the members prior to September SPC meeting.

The members agreed that the report be noted.

Paper 3 - Rural Public Lighting – Rural Public Lighting Scheme

John McGowan (Senior Engineer) was welcomed to the meeting. He gave the members a detailed report on Rural Public Lighting Scheme. The members were advised of the challenges with this scheme.

- Costs
- Power
- Light Columns
- ESB lack of desire for lights installed on their infrastructure

The members raised the following concerns:

- Policy requirement on where we need lighting in the county
- Possible to filter costs
- Actual requirement
- Safety issues

John informed the committee members that the Policy was adopted primarily in the Athy Municipal District and funding was secured from the Local Property Tax (LPT) .

Cllr Connolly highlighted the need for this scheme in rural areas in the county. In response, John McGowan SE advised the members that this scheme is not recommended but in saying that all individual applications would be looked at separately. However, a source of funding would need to be identified to progress the scheme. This scheme would not be funded from the Public Lighting Budget.

Celina Barrett A/Director of Services reiterated that the policy sets out the main objectives. She encouraged the members to identify items for inclusion and make recommendations on how to progress the scheme.

Cathaoirleach Joseph Neville reiterated to the committee members that they should highlight this issue to their colleagues at each Municipal District so as to secure funding if this scheme was to be available.

Councillor Stafford suggested that the committee members should meet to review the policy prior to the September SPC meeting.

John McGowan concluded his briefing noting that the Public Lighting Efficiency Programme with Kilkenny County Council being the Lead Authority with a Section 85 in place to replace all street lighting with LED lights.

The tender will be issued in Quarter 2 2021 and with contractor due on site in Quarter 1 2022. The aim of this programme is to reduce carbon emission, costs and environmentally friendly. The programme will cost in the region of 6-9 million euros. Kildare County Council may not be the first Local Authority to receive them as it depends on the contractor work schedule.

The committee members complimented John on his presentation.

Item 4 – Referrals from Municipal District to SPC

The members agreed that the reports be noted.

Cllr Mark Stafford requested clarification on his motion from the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District meeting.

"That the council designate "One Hour Only" car parking spaces in specific locations in Towns and Villages in the Kildare-Newbridge Municipal District where parking is at a premium and required for a short duration only i.e. outside banks, post offices, newsagents, etc"

He raised the following concerns:

- A shorter duration outside banks, post office, newsagents etc.
- Some form of regulation in place
- Provision of 15 minutes limit to park in certain areas.
- Policy in place for towns and villages where there is no pay and display.

Committee members agreed that some form of a countywide approach is needed.

Pamela Pender, A/SEO assured him that she would revert back to him with clarification.

Item 5- Sustainable Transport Forum (incorporating Cycle Forum)

The A/Director of Services, Celina Barrett informed the members that the draft terms of reference for consideration - Sustainable Transport was distributed to them prior to the meeting. She discussed the current situation and the Climate Action Agenda which is a huge driving force to progress and develop the forum. She welcomed an input from the members of the committee.

The Draft National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) is on display for public consultation and the Department is now seeking feedback from the public and interested stakeholders on the framework. This Draft National Investment Framework which replaces the Strategic Investment Framework for land transport which is in place since 2016.

The NIFTI sets out principles, priorities and an evidence-based framework to inform transport investment decision-making. It sets out our four unranked priorities for transport decarbonisation, protection and renewal enhanced regional accessibility and the sustainable mobility of people and goods in urban areas.

The members raised the following concerns:

- The role of the Sustainable Transport Forum
- The forum aims
- Clarity on subcommittee reference and when
- Establishment date
- No of members on the forum

The members proposed the following recommendations

1. Forum to have a separate entity to the Transportation SPC
2. Subcommittee makes reference and when
3. Communicate to the SPC on their findings
4. Membership driven
5. Memberships that have the same thinking
6. Membership for the forum should be a small group

Declan Keogh, Road Safety, Cycling and Sustainable Transport Officer concluded this discussion that the membership for the proposed Sustainable Transport should be considered in the following areas:

- An Taisce
- Green Schools
- Maynooth University
- Kildare Wicklow Educate Together Board (KWETB)

Celina Barrett, A/DOS advised the committee members that a meeting was held between National Transport Authority (NTA) and Kildare County Council on the Proposed Forum. She informed the committee that the NTA are willing to have a representative for green schools on the forum.

Cathaoirleach Neville welcomed the proposed NTA representation on the forum as it would open the door of engagement, collaborating and working in partnership with Kildare County Council.

Celina Barrett, A/DOS gave clarity that the Chairperson of the Sustainable Transport Sub-committee shall be the Chairperson of the Transportation SPC Committee which would form the link between the two committees. The forum would not be governed by the same terms of reference as the Transport SPC.

Celina Barrett A/DOS thanked the members for their recommendations on the draft terms of reference. She informed them that she would alter the draft terms of reference accordingly and will circulate them to the Climate Action SPC for their comments. The committee members agreed with this proposal.

The members of the committee were informed of a well-established Sustainable Forum in Cork County Council and in light of this Celina proposes to invite Rose Power to the first meeting of the forum.

Item 6 –Discussion on Technical Documents presented to the SPC

Pamela Pender, A/SEO informed the members of the following 3 Technical documents:

- Manual for Provision of Pedestrian facilities in Kildare
- Criteria for the implementation of statutory signing and lining in Co. Kildare
- Traffic Calming Policy

She reiterated to the members of the committee that as they are technical documents, they are consistently updated by the roads department, technical team to incorporate Guidelines and Legislation which may be relevant.

On foot of this, David Reel (A/Senior Engineer) informed the committee members that the above 3 Technical Documents are live documents, guidance of use, access and show consistent approach throughout the county. There are several national and international documents and acts that provide guidance on the approaches and design standards – Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS), Traffic Management Guidelines, National Cycle Manual, Road Traffic Acts to name but a few.

The legal framework for traffic signage is contained in the Road Traffic Acts which defines the signs and road markings and the significance attached to them.

John McGowan, Senior Engineer gave the members a background to Traffic Calming Policy. He informed them that this policy intends to address the concerns, which the public and the elected representatives have regarding the negative impact of excessive or inappropriate traffic speed on public roads.

The aim of this policy is to:

1. Improve safety
2. Reduce and control vehicular speed
3. Improve driver awareness of vulnerable road users.

The Roads Act 1993 confers upon the Road Authority the responsibility of maintenance and the construction of public roads within Co. Kildare. Under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994" A Road Authority may, in the interest of safety and convenience of road users, provide such traffic calming measures as they consider desirable in respect of public roads in their charge.

He confirmed that Section 38 gives reference to the following

- Road Traffic Act, 1994
- Road Traffic (Bollard and Ramps) regulations
- Traffic Management Guidelines
- NTA

He informed the members of the traffic calming procedures on existing roads

1. Data Collection
2. Scheme Appraisal /Assessment

3. Prioritising of schemes
4. Priority list Approval
5. Scheme design and Consultation

Cllr Stafford requested clarification on whether developers can be requested to install ramps.

David Reel A/SE confirmed that Kildare County Council would adopt a pro-active approach to traffic calming at pre-planning stage with developers. It is the intention that all planning application for new residential or commercial developments will be assessed from a speed and safety perspective.

The Roads Engineers shall be involved in pre-planning discussions and shall be involved in the assessment of planning applications. On foot of this no new housing estates in Co. Kildare should require traffic calming.

The members were informed that the three technical documents are guides for the Municipal District Engineers and must be adhered to within the guidelines.

A lengthy discussion did take place at the meeting on the issue of installing ramps in the County. David Reel highlighted firstly the area of traffic calming to clarify and identify that there is a problem rather than a solution.

John McGowan, SE outlined to the members that a substantial amount of traffic calming works has been carried out by Kildare County Council in Kilshanroe village. Kilshanroe would deem to have 50km/h speed limit, in addition there is a 30km/h Periodic speed limit signalling outside Kilshanroe National School.

Committee members were informed that ramps speed cushions and tables should only be used as a last resort and that all other measures should be considered first. Ramps and rumble strips do have unwelcome side effects such as additional noise, vehicle damage and possible personal injury.

The Ambulance Service generally are not in favour of ramps and have concerns about the effect of ramps on people with spinal injuries travelling over ramps.

The Fire Services are also concerned that ramps delay the response time of their fire tenders.

With reference to installing ramps, David Reel, A/SE reiterated that the council have a capital and lifetime cost associated to them.

Councillor Killeen highlighted the issue of speeding through estates and the "children at play" signs.

David Reel, A/SE advised Councillor Killeen that Kildare County Council are carrying out a County Speed Limit Review which is the legal process for adopting speed limits. The speed limit review will be carried out in accordance with the Road Traffic Act 2004 and the Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland. Kildare County Council aim to have a slow zone speed limit of a maximum speed limit in line with Jakes Law (30km/h) in estates. It should be noted that the council cannot adopt the speed limit legislation in residential developments that have not been taken in charge. The County Speed Limit review is a Reserved Function. The newer estates in the County don't have long streets which will hopefully prevent speeding within the common areas.

Cathaoirleach Neville expressed his concerns on the lack of infrastructure on the outside of housing estates. The provision of internal and external planning is required for each development

John McGowan assured the members that every site will be looked at under the following headings:

1. Accident history
2. Vulnerable Road Users
3. Traffic Volumes and Speed
4. Local Conditions

Gerry Dornan requested clarification on whether filter residential an option like Belgium could be considered where there is no through road just pedestrian and cyclists. There is no hard engineering and is an attractive option.

David Reel, A/SE reiterated that generally most housing estates would be cul-de-sac roads. It is part of life to have cars parked in housing estates. The Emergency Services are not in favour of these options. He outlined that Horizontal Reflection would be option but to reflect that the roads department are restricted in what can be implemented. He also highlighted that closing a road can be examined in the traffic calming document.

John McGowan, SE highlighted to the members that Northern Area offices are looking for some flexibility with these working documents. He assured the committee that he would revert back to each of the Municipal Districts Engineers on this meeting.

Item 7– Any other Business

Celina Barrett, A/DOS referred to the Strategic Policy Committee Scheme adopted by Kildare County Council (item 4) that refers the Chairperson will report bi-annually to the full council. She informed the members of the committee that Cathaoirleach Neville will give a presentation on behalf of the Transportation SPC at the June full council meeting. Cathaoirleach Neville agreed with this date and an update would be given at the September Transport SPC meeting.

Celina Barrett, A/DOS reiterated that NIFTI establishes high-level investment priorities to efficiently and effectively address key transport challenges and to ensure that transport investment is aligned with and supports Government overarching spatial and climate change objectives, as articulated in the National Framework and Climate Action Plan.

The Department of Transport public consultation commenced on 31 March 2021 and will conclude on 28 May 2021.

Celina Barrett A/Director assured the committee that Kildare County Council would be making a submission and encouraged others to do so. She advised the committee to visit the Department website www.gov.ie to make an individual submission.

Cathaoirleach Neville advised the members that he submitted the work programme 2020/2021 and the issues associated with the programme on behalf of the SPC group on the Pre-draft issue papers for the new Kildare County Development Plan. The public consultation concluded on 08 March 2021.

Brian Purcell who represents a sub-group of Kildare Chamber stated that the committee members from this group wished to have their sincere gratitude reiterated to all staff members within Kildare County Council for the work carried out on greenways, Blueways to name but a few and the commitment given to their roles. He requested clarification on the parking issues at the business park outside of Maynooth and Cllr. Ward encouraged Brian Purcell to make a submission on the lack of car parking spaces in this location.

The Cathaoirleach, Joseph Neville expressed his sincere gratitude on the positive feedback given by Brian Purcell on behalf of the sub-group of Kildare Chamber.

The next meeting to be held on 02 September 2021.