

## **MINUTES**

### **Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services**

#### **STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**11 November 2021**

#### **Attendees:**

Councillor Joseph Neville; Councillor Anne Connolly; Councillor Angela Feeney.  
Councillor Colm Kenny; Councillor Mark Stafford; Councillor Paul Ward; Gerry  
Dornan

#### **Also Present**

Evelyn Wright, Director of Services; John McGowan, Senior Engineer; Donal  
Hodgins, Senior Engineer; Brian Murnane, Assistant Engineer; Michael Hurley,  
Health and Safety Officer; Declan Keogh, Roads Safety, Cycling and Sustainable  
Transport Officer; Pamela Pender, A/Senior Executive Officer and Marie Kelly,  
Assistant Staff Officer.

#### **Apologies:**

Councillor Nuala Killeen, Brian Purcell, Cormac Browne

#### **Introduction**

Cathaoirleach Joseph Neville welcomed all the members of the SPC to the  
November meeting. He apologised to the committee members for the SPC meeting  
cancelled on the 04<sup>th</sup> November 2021 with short notice and with the meeting  
rescheduled today Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 via Microsoft Teams.

#### **Item 1 – Minutes- 02 September 2021**

On the proposal of Councillor Connolly and seconded by Councillor Kenny the  
minutes of 02<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 were approved and taken as read.

#### **Item 2 – Declarations of Interest**

No Comment.

### **Update from Director of Services**

The Director of Services, Evelyn Wright gave the members an update and a brief background on the various public webinar's organised by National Transport Authority (NTA).

- Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan
- Public Consultation on the Draft Transport Strategy for the GDA 2022-2024
- Dart Plus South West Project

The webinars provide an opportunity for the public to hear from the NTA and to learn more. The members were advised that they must register if they wished to attend the online public information events.

The Director of Services informed the committee members about the Road Traffic and Roads Bill 2021. This Bill is currently before the Dáil Éireann. (Second stage 10 November 2021)

She gave a brief outline of the content of the Bill

- Amendments of the Act
- Definitions
- Fixed charge notices
- A mechanically propelled vehicle in a public road is not prohibited to use on the footpaths.
- Special speed limit of 20 Kilometres per hour is specified by county councils in bye-laws.
- A person shall not supply a powered personnel transporter to a person who is under the age of 16 but to name a few points.

The Committee was advised of proposed amendments to the Traffic Bill to provide regulation for e-scooters and scramblers. Members agreed that challenges lie in the management of these facilities and a lot of work will be required to examine and consider the impacts on the public and consultation with the Disabled and Accessibility Groups countywide. Now is the time to look at the area of education, enforcement and best practices for e-scooters and scramblers.

Cllr Neville expressed his concerns that going forward the County Development Plan should have the E-Scooter element embedded in the plan as the plan is a key driver that leads the county into the future.

Cllr Connolly requested clarification on whether a submission be made as a group or individual on the proposed Traffic Bill. Cllr Neville informed her that the best option was to make an individual submission.

### **Item 3 – Referrals from Municipal District**

Cllr Stafford requested at the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee September meeting that the parking section consult with Laois County Council to see how the 15-minute parking spaces were operating for those areas (Post Offices, Banks etc). Cllr Killeen suggested consulting with Carlow County Council also.

Pamela Pender, A/SEO informed the members that the Pay Parking section consulted with Laois County Council and Carlow County Council. She confirmed that neither councils are promoting 15 minutes. To add separate time zones of 15 minutes outside of banks, post offices or shops etc would cause confusion.

The Director of Services, Evelyn Wright discussed the current situation on the County Parking Strategy agreed in 2016 and she suggested that now is the time to revisit the strategy considering the many changes introduced during Covid 19.

It was agreed by all the members of the committee that the strategy would be reviewed.

Cllr Stafford highlighted that he would bring a motion to the Municipal District Meeting that the information on the parking tickets is not consistent in the towns and that a review of the ticket machines would need to be examined.

#### **Item 4 – Briefing from Declan Keogh, Roads Safety, Cycling and Sustainable Transport Officer**

Declan Keogh, Road Safety, Cycling and Sustainable Transport Officer was welcomed to the meeting and he updated the members on work to date.

- **School Wardens:** Two new School Wardens have been appointed and began at their crossings on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November in Ardclough, service St. Anne's National School and in Maynooth, service the Maynooth Educate Together School and Gaelscoil, Celbridge road.
- **Bike Week :** Kildare County Council organised 25 events around the county and supported many others locally. Two of the cycling events, the Great Greenway Cycle and Brief Blueway Cycle were difficult to quantify for numbers as it was based on 'Any Distance - Any Day - Any Number', which encouraged people to cycle at their own leisure and time. Next year, we will incorporate a QR Code marker scheme for counters and hopefully progress from a Brief Blueway Cycle to The Big Blueway Cycle when all ground works are complete.

The Kildare Cycling Webinar was well attended and proved very positive. The webinar was opened by Deputy Mayor Carmel Kelly and co-hosted by Pamela Pender and Declan Keogh.

Among the invited speakers were:

- Alan Curren, Galway Cycle Bus
  - Professor Molly Byrne NUI Galway
  - Colm Ryder – Cyclist.ie
  - Sean Fogarty – Ballymore Eustance Cycle Café
  - Brian Hammond – Leinster Youth Cycle Reps
  - Barbara Connolly – Cycling Ireland and Cycle Right
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- **Mobile Bike Repair:** A number of mobile cycle repair workshops were established at 5 sites around the county while we also joined with Infinity Cycles to provide a free bicycle maintenance check in town centre workshop for students on their way to school.

- Cycle Safety Skills were carried out at four primary schools with approx 200 students. We encouraged schools to participate in a COW Day (Cycle on Wednesday) day and Active Travel Cycles.
- Cllr Bill Clear and Cllr Colm Kenny assisted in organising (i) Naas Heritage Cycle Tour and (ii) Car Free Greenway Cycle.
- Declan joined 16 adult clients of the DARA Rehabilitation Project in Athy to get back on the saddle and go for a cycle. Some haven't cycled in over 30 years. As part of Bike Week, he also assisted with another cycling project which will see a new Cycle Workshop being built for reusable bicycles in the community.
- Kildare's flagship event during bike week was the launch of the Cycle Café scheme which was very well attended during staggered times and included a live outside broadcast from Kildare radio. Bike Week 2021 in Kildare was promoted on the council's social media and in the local press' online media.

Gerry Dorman requested a copy of the bike week report for circulation to the members. He requested clarification on the terms and conditions for bike week. Declan assured him that the report would be circulated.

He informed the members that Kildare County Council allocate in the region of €1,500 to bike week.

Cllr Neville complimented Declan on the excellent work carried out and the use of social media having Kildare County Council to the forefront on road safety.

#### **Item 5 - Presentation from Donal Hodgins, Senior Engineer, Traffic and Sustainable Transport**

The Senior Engineer, Donal Hodgins thanked the Cathaoirleach for the warm welcome to the Transportation SPC. He informed the committee members that funding is received from the Department of Transport through the National Transport Authority as Sustainable Transport Measures Grant and a Safe to School

Programme. Complementary funding is received from Urban Renewable Development funding.

Committee members were informed of the programme management collaborating, coordinating and working in partnership within and across Directorates to seek projects /goals, Popular Square, Naas and Kildare Town Scheme are examples of working in partnership with Public Realm.

Donal informed the members that the work plan for 2022 is yet to be agreed with the NTA and the agreed schedule will be brought to all MD's early in 2022. It can then be circulated to the SPC. The status on the current schemes is as follows:

### **Public Consultation**

Q1 – Easton Road/Green Lane Cycletrack Scheme

Q1 – Meadowbrook Road Cycletrack Scheme

Q1 – Monasterevin Cycletrack Scheme

Q2 – Celbridge Bridge

Q2 – Naas to Kill Cycletrack Scheme

Q2 – Sallins Village – Permanent Measures

Q2 – Celbridge Road Cycletrack Scheme

Q2 – Kilcock Road Cycletrack Scheme

Q3 – Naas to Sallins Greenway.

### **Construction**

Q1 – Royal Canal Greenway

Q3 – Kilcullen Road Cycletrack Scheme

Q3 – Mill Street Cycletrack Scheme

Q4 – Naas Permeability Schemes

Q4 – Monasterevin Cycletrack Scheme

Q4 – Easton Road/Green Lane Cycletrack Scheme

Q4 – Meadowbrook Road Cycletrack Scheme

The members of the committee were advised that the NTA are considering a Scheme to provide cycle parking at targeting schools/sports clubs particularly. If proceeding, then consultation will take place during 2022.

He asked the members to encourage the community to engage with the consultation process during 2022.

The members welcome the approach for the provision of cycle parking at schools /sports clubs.

Councillor Neville complimented Donal Hodgins and his team on the work planned for 2022.

**Item 6 - Request from the CPG to provide a summary slide/report to the December Full Council 2021 on Climate Change/Adaptation progress**

The Director of Services, Evelyn Wright informed the members of the committee that Cathaoirleach Neville would give a summary slide /report to the December Full Council meeting on Climate Change/Adaptations progress.

- Number of NTA/Sustainable transport projects underway/kilometres of footpath, cycleway delivered
- EV – strategy progress and number of EV vehicles in fleet/under consideration
- LED lights replaced as part of the replacement programme

The Director of Services confirmed that there are various Sustainable Transport Projects underway at different stages design, public consultation and construction.

The Draft EV Strategy is on hold as we are awaiting guidelines from 4 Dublin Authorities EV charging strategy and on their progress would be monitored/learned from. She confirmed it was envisaged that any such strategy would be considered by the Climate Action SPC also.

The work programme 2021/2022 will see work commence on a Draft EV Strategy which will address the progress of fleet transition, identification of the EV charging infrastructure needed and its implementation.

Evelyn Wright confirmed that 10,000 of the 28,000 lights have been replaced with LED Lights.

The members raised the following points on the LED lights replaced

1. Commencement date
2. Best for the environment (Old to New)
3. Different stages to the programme

The Senior Engineer, John McGowan confirmed the following points:

1. The programme is governed by Kilkenny County Council-envisaged to proceed in 2022.
2. Optimise energy conservation and reduce carbon emissions.  
90% of the lights have been replaced with LED lights.
3. Once the contractor commences in the region, it is anticipated that the work will be completed in 5/6 months.

The Director of Services assured the members that the transportation department is in a positive position to deliver this update at the December full council meeting as requested by the CPG.

#### **Item 7- Sustainable Transport Forum**

The Cathaoirleach advised the members of the SPC that the chairperson of the Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee has expressed concerns of need to work with the Transportation SPC as many of our areas are overlapping from active travel Public Transport, School Transport etc.

The Director of Services informed the members that the Climate Action SPC and the Transportation SPC must ensure that there is a key focus going forward. The Sustainable Transport Forum will provide the potential to enhance communication between Climate Action SPC and Transportation SPC.



The Director of Services informed the members that some items on the work programme would be diverted to the forum. She advised the members of the SPC that their role was to influence policy.

#### **Item 8- Work Programme 2021/2022**

Evelyn Wright highlighted the importance of the SPC work programme for 2022. She assured the members that she will meet with Cllr Hamilton to discuss what form the programme can take and marry up the two SPC's. The development of a policy to pilot e-scooters in one town in Kildare etc could be considered, Maynooth as a student town might be suitable. Challenges to be considered include where they are kept and located to avoid littering of footpaths and roadways which is a problem across the EU. This could be a trial project.

Cllr Kenny expressed his concerns on the cycle lok facility behind the town hall in Naas, the app does not seem to be working and is the facility being maintained. Declan Keogh confirmed that he corresponded with the company on two occasions. He assured him that he would contact them again and upon receipt of an update he would revert to the members.

Gerry Dornan requested clarification on the issue of cars parking on cycleways. The Director of Services confirmed that An Gardaí have powers to issue fines as vehicles are registered to owners. KCC have powers within the bye laws but outside of those areas the Gardaí enforce, similar to cycling on footpaths etc.

#### **Item 9 –Meeting Calendar for 2021**

The following proposed dates for 2022 were agreed by the members but are subject to change as the proposed dates are scheduled into the draft meeting calendar which will be presented to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) and to the Full Council for approval.

- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 @ 2.00pm
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 @ 2.00pm
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 @ 2.00pm

- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 @ 2.00pm

### **Any other Business**

Gerry Dornan requested clarification on the following

- Transportation Working Programme ranking system.
- The PPN (Public Partnership Network) members can place items on the agenda, can this be done and how?

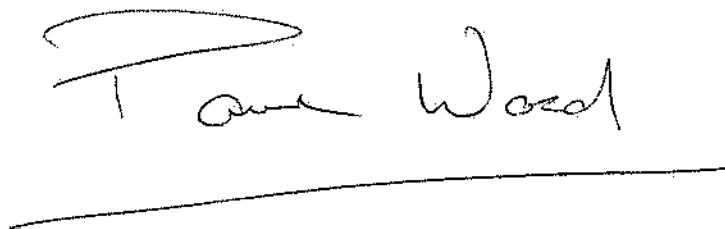
The Director of Services assured him that there is no form of ranking. She advised Gerry that the roads administration section work through the programme and communicate to the members on the findings in terms of finances and resources.

Pamela Pender A/SEO confirmed that a copy of the Standing Orders was circulated to the members prior to the meeting and referenced Paragraph 6 - Order of Business.

Gerry highlighted that he submitted 12 submission papers which were not listed or noted. Pamela Pender assured him that his 12 submission papers were noted at a previous meeting in 2021 and would form part of the documents to be considered by the Sustainable Transport Forum.

The Cathaoirleach concluded the meeting and advised the members of the SPC that their role was to influence policy.

The next meeting will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022.



Pádraig Wozel