

MINUTES

Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Via Microsoft Teams

03 November 2022

Attendees:

Councillor Paul Ward; Councillor Anne Connolly; Councillor Angela Feeney.
Councillor Colm Kenny; Councillor Nuala Killeen; Councillor Joseph Neville.
Brian Purcell and Gerry Dornan.

Also Present:

Evelyn Wright, Director of Services; Celina Barrett, Chief Fire Officer, Jonathan Hennessy, Senior Executive Engineer, Ann Marie Burke Executive Engineer; Gearoid Hooban, Executive Engineer, Ger Maher, Administrative Officer; Pamela Pender, A/Senior Executive Officer and Marie Kelly, Assistant Staff Officer.

Apologies:

Councillor Mark Stafford; Stephen Deegan, Senior Engineer; Donal Hodgins, Senior Engineer, John McGowan, Senior Engineer; James Doyle, Senior Staff Officer.

Introduction

Cathaoirleach Paul Ward welcomed all the members of the SPC to the November meeting and welcomed Jonathan Hennessy to the meeting.

Item 1 – Minutes- 01st September 2022

On the proposal of Councillor Nuala Killeen and seconded by Councillor Angela Feeney the minutes of 01st September 2022 were approved and taken as read.

Item 2 – Declarations of Interest

No Comment.

Item 3 – Update from Director of Services

The Director of Services, Evelyn Wright apologised on behalf of Stephen Deegan, Senior Engineer and Dónal Hodgins, Senior Engineer, that they were unable to give their updates on their capital projects today, but that she would give an update on their behalf.

Evelyn Wright, Director of Service explained that when the speed limit bye laws review was rejected by the members in the July Meeting 2022, KCC submitted an appeal to the new Regional Appeals Panel in the Dept of Transport. The outcome from the appeal panel will be shared with all elected members and members of the SPC when available.

The members of the committee were informed that the RSA Task Force on Speeding, on which the Director sits, is on target to present a report by the end of 2022. The Director attended a Road Safety Authority (RSA) conference on speeding, understanding why people speed, speed intervention.

Mr. King spoke at this conference giving an overview on 30km/h in estates in towns and villages which will be the drive for 2023.

Kildare County Council will host a meeting for the Chair of the AILG. Information regarding the Speed Limit Review appeals will be shared, with discussions taking place around training for elected members along with any matters they wish to raise.

Evelyn Wright informed the members that €9m has been drawn down for Active Travel Projects and that it is anticipated that revenue will double for this area in 2023.

The members were advised that Dónal Hodgins SE gave a presentation to all 5 Municipal District Meeting on Active Travel.

Evelyn Wright gave the following updates to the Committee:

She explained that the Maynooth to Confey Bridge Section of the Royal Canal Greenway has started construction. The period of construction is 18 months.

The Director explained that a request for 'expressions of interest' for cycle storage has been carried out. The Part 8- Proposed Naas to Kill Cycle Scheme now closed since mid-October with submissions being examined and the second bridge in Newbridge is at consultation stage.

Evelyn Wright informed the members that a proposed pilot charging hub scheme is planned for Maynooth area under the remit of Clane Maynooth Municipal District Engineer, Cyril Buggie. Installation is expected in early in 2023. The Department of Transport are providing funding for this pilot scheme under the ZEVI (Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland) sub group.

Item 4 – Briefing from Evelyn Wright DOS on behalf of Stephen Deegan, Senior Engineer Capital Project Team

The Director of Services outlined the following projects that are under the supervision and continuity of the capital project team.

1. Maynooth Eastern Ring Road
2. Athy Distributor Road
3. Celbridge Hazelhatch Link Road
4. Bridge Programme
5. Machinery Yard Relocation and Regional Salt Barn

This is just a summary of the many projects that are at various stages with the Capital Project Team.

The Director highlighted the strict deadlines and technical challenges which face the team. There is a lot of work going on in the background to ensure each project progresses.

In relation to the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road (MERR), the Transportation department are proceeding to a significant important stage of this project, preparing documents for CPO. The CPO is a crucial phase in all projects.

Evelyn Wright advised the committee members that the Athy Distributor Road is constructed to 50% complete and that the steel for the bridges is on site with fabrication taking place.

The DOS suggested that a site visit by the Roads, Transportation and Emergency SPC would be very interesting and they should use the opportunity to visit a scheme of this level.

- The Newbridge Outer Orbital Ring Road is part of a second SHD (Strategic Housing Development) which is with An Bord Pleanála.
- The Newhall Junction is approaching CPO and is about to be advertised and will be presented to An Bord Pleanála.
- She outlined that the transport strategies for Naas and Kildare are completed and published with Maynooth and Newbridge ongoing.
- The machinery Yard and Regional Salt Bard is anticipated that a construction will be complete within 12 months which is positive news.
- The Bridge Programme is funded by the Department of Transport for emergency works. The work on bridges requires input from heritage and conservation officers, with submissions made to the Heritage Section (Department of Housing) for approval to proceed.
- The proposal for the Dart West has provided many technical challenges for the Transportation department.

Members were informed that the presentation given at the meeting would be circulated.

The DOS advised the committee that if they had any questions to circulate them to Pamela Pender A/SEO or Evelyn who in turn would forward them to Stephen Deegan, Senior Engineer.

The members raised the following points:

1. Issues with resources
2. Traffic counts
3. Policy to publish traffic data for transport strategy
4. Clarification on Pathfinder

The Director of Services, Evelyn Wright confirmed the following points:

- The capital team is made up of a very good team but because of statutory timelines and constraints, they don't have a separate administrative team. There is a lot of work contracted out to consultants which need to be managed. Tendering/funding are just two of the challenges faced.
- The provision of cycle counters is under discussion with the NTA.
- The request to publish traffic data feeding into transport strategies will be considered. The team are looking at novel ways to engage with the public and gain feedback. An example given was the Newbridge Transport Strategy, led by Daragh Conlan SEE and engagement with the age action group. They were asked simply 'what were their challenges?'. No technical summary was provided in this report.
- Naas Mobility Network Integration Project selected in the Pathfinder Programme. The Pathfinder Programme is not a funding programme but a mechanism to support accelerated delivery by offering a suite of supports and status for these projects selected.

The Cathaoirleach, Paul Ward and the committee members complimented all those concerned with the work in progress on the capital projects.

Item 5 - Update from Jonathan Hennessy, Senior Executive Engineer on the Taking in Charge Policy update

The Senior Executive Engineer, Jonathan Hennessy thanked the Cathaoirleach for the warm welcome to the Transportation SPC. He proceeded with introduction and gave a brief background of his work.

Jonathan Hennessy gave the members a briefing on the Taking in Charge Policy update which would bring about some changes in the policy especially the role of Irish Water.

The following points were covered in the presentation

1. What is taking in charge?
2. What is the role of the Local Authority in the taking in charge process?
3. Do the Councillors have a role in the taking in charge?
4. Why is Kildare County Council updating the Taking in Charge Policy?

Jonathan Hennessy advised the members that Councillors have important role to play in the taking in charge process and that it one of the reserved functions of the council. The policy has been updated to reflect changes in the standards and protocol.

One of the main changes is that Local authority also engages with Irish Water regarding the taking in charge of water services.

Key Legislation

- Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.
- Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 provides the main legal basis for taking in charge.

The members raised the following points:

1. Taking in charge of Legacy Estates- Timeframe.
2. What is Kildare County Councils responsibility in relation to apartment blocks in Strategic Housing Developments (SHDs)
3. Issue with Bonds

Jonathan Hennessy made the following points during discussion with the members:

- Normally the Developer is gone out of business with Legacy estates. The taking in charge would be a long process. Once the snag list is addressed then it could take anything up to 12 months or more before it is taken in charge.

- Apartment blocks are in the hands of management company and don't come under the remit of Kildare County Council.
- Legacy estates are being reviewed and a team has been assigned. Difficulties arise with the presence of pumping stations, manholes in gardens etc. This whole area must be decoupled piece by piece to bring estates to taking in charge standard.

Jonathan Hennessy concluded his briefing and affirmed that he would circulate a copy of the presentation with his e-mail address to the committee members. He invited the members to submit any individual submission or as a group to him directly.

Item 6 – Agreement on the County Parking Policy Framework

Evelyn Wright, DOS apologised on behalf of James Doyle, Senior Staff Officer, that he was unable to give update on the County Parking Policy Framework. She discussed the current situation on the County Parking Strategy agreed in 2016 and emphasised the need to revisit this strategy bearing in mind that the country is out of the Covid pandemic.

She discussed the 1-11 Proposed items of the County Parking Policy Framework in detail with the committee members.

Kildare County Council
County Parking Policy Framework document 2022

No.	Issue for Consideration	Recommendation from Roads Department	Comments
1	Regulation Times	Regulation Times shall be from 09.30 to 17.30 Monday to Saturday inclusive (excluding public/bank holidays).	This is to ensure consistency and clarity for motorists.
2	Parking Tariffs	Parking charges apply to all designated parking areas, on street or off street where pay parking is regulated.	On street and off street parking charges apply
3	Maximum Stay Periods	Town centres/high density business/shopping districts shall have a maximum stay of one hour and outer perimeter areas shall have a maximum stay of two hours	
4	Car Parks/Park and Ride Facilities	All off-street car parks and park and ride facilities shall have a minimum charge of €4.00 per day inclusive of VAT and be provided with CCTV and Public Lighting	Hourly rate to be determined. Need to encourage motorists to use public transport/incentivise park and ride facilities
5	Enforcement	It is the policy of KCC not to use clamping of vehicles as a means of parking enforcement	
6	Observation Times	The parking observation period shall be 15 minutes before the purchase of and on the expiry of a valid pay and display ticket	Parking Observation Periods were temporarily extended from 15 minutes to 30 minutes prior to purchase and on the expiry of a valid pay and display ticket as part of emergency Covid-19 measure.
7	Loading Bays	Loading Bays shall be provided for commercial vehicles and operate between 09.30 to 11.30 and revert to Pay Parking from 11.30 to 17.30 Monday to Saturday inclusive (excluding public/bank holidays).	
8	Appointed Taxi Stands	Appointed Taxi Stands shall be designated in close proximity to Public Transport networks and town/village centres.	
9	Age Friendly Parking Spaces	1. Age Friendly Parking Spaces shall be designated in locations in consultation with Kildare County Council's Age Friendly Officer. 2. All Age Friendly Parking Spaces shall be pay and display parking spaces.	
10	Car Clubs & Cycle Parking	Car clubs will be encouraged and facilitated as required. Cycle Parking will be considered in all Active Travel project and for consideration by the members when revising Bye Laws.	
11	Pay Parking and Illegal Parking Revenue Surplus	Surplus revenue generated from Pay Parking and Illegal Parking shall be allocated to the MD to which the revenue is generated and used on projects within the MD in consultation with the Elected Members	
12	Residential & Visitor Permit	<p>Residential parking permits will not be issued for Main Streets or high density shopping/business areas. A maximum of three residential parking permits per household shall be issued in any one year or part thereof, on payment of the appropriate fee and subject to terms and conditions.</p> <p>Residential parking permits shall be made available to residents on the street in which they reside in respect of the residents vehicle which is normally kept at that address subject to proof of residence at that location, terms and conditions as outlined in the application form. Where a resident resides on a street where there is no designated parking, or the resident resides on a Main street or high density business/shopping area, the nearest side street with designated parking shall be provided as a parking location.</p> <p>Visitor parking permits shall be made available to residents on the street in which they reside subject to proof of residence at that location, terms and conditions as outlined in the application form. Where a resident resides on a street where there is no designated parking, or the resident resides on a Main street or high density business/shopping area, the nearest side street with designated parking street shall be provided as a parking location.</p> <p>Visitor parking permits shall be provided to the resident in respect of the parking of vehicles which are not normally kept at that address and which require to be parked temporarily in a residential permit area for the purpose which is ancillary to the use of the residents dwelling.</p>	

Evelyn made the following points during discussion with the members:

1. These are regulation lines
2. Parking regulated off/on the street charge will apply
3. Maximum stay will apply 1 hr/2hr depending on the area
4. Park and Ride – Day charge would apply with off street. The issue of providing an hourly rate can be determined.
5. Clamping is not enforced by Kildare County Council.
6. The extension of the observation period of 30 minutes needs to be revisited. This was implemented during the covid 19 pandemic. As all covid measures are now reversed it is appropriate that this last element should follow suit.
7. Consideration of a policy in the parking guidelines of commercial Vehicles with timelines defined etc
8. Car Clubs – Open to providing a policy.

Gerry Dornan wished to include 'that cargo bike parking will be considered in all active travel projects and for consideration by the council members when revising the Bye-Laws'. The Director of Services, Evelyn Wright reiterated that this could be included in the revised County Parking Framework.

The members raised the following points:

1. Provision of debit card facilities in all car parks
2. Any provision for EV points in public car parks.
3. Business Parking Permits
4. All day parking at train station
5. Disabled Bays- better controlled
6. Hidden Disability
7. Residential Parking Permits.

Evelyn Wright made the following points:

1. The provision of the upgraded payment machines in the car parks has commenced in Kildare /Newbridge MD with Naas due to commence shortly.
2. EV space- In 2016, Go car was part of pilot scheme but with no great uptake.

Evelyn reiterated that if any company is interested and identifies any changes Kildare County Council is available to listen.

She informed the committee members that a meeting was held with Easy Go, Pamela Pender A/SEO and Cyril Buggie, Clane Maynooth Municipal District Engineer in attendance. The meeting was arranged to discuss options for the proposed pilot scheme at the car park located at the Glenroyal. Funding is made available from the Department of Transport.

3. Parking during peak times is very difficult to control
4. Clarification is needed within Municipal District bye-laws on all day parking at train stations. We should not have free parking at any public car parks. There are costs involved in maintaining and enforcing the parking at the locations.
5. Provide more disabled bays is an option within the Municipal District Byelaws.
6. There is no mechanism for hidden disability. It has no legislative basis, therefore cannot be enforced by the Gardai/traffic wardens.
7. Residential Parking can be regulated through the provision of double yellow line, considered unpopular by residents because they apply to all those parking in the estate not just visitors. Residents can apply for parking permits through our pay parking section.

Cllr Anne Connolly made a comment that all new parking machines are showing 30 minutes observation period.

Cllr Killeen expressed her concern with no retail space in Leixlip and with taxi spaces not reinstated after the roadworks.

Evelyn Wright reiterated that the Celbridge Leixlip Municipal District members determine the regulation through the bye-laws.

Committee members were informed that the Parking Policy Framework would provide a guideline document for each Municipal District as they prepare their own bye laws. The needs of each town can be dealt with individually however, consistency across the County is a priority for our visitors and motorists and

members should also be mindful of the current Climate Change crisis the country is facing.

Cllr Colm Kenny highlighted the area of trucks parking (HGVs) at junctions. In response Evelyn advised that it is back to this Framework and that the HGVs would be managed through each Municipal District individual Bye-Laws.

Cllr Joseph Neville asked for an update on stats on the parking spaces and the figure of tickets given.

Evelyn Wright, DOS confirmed that this information will be available at budget time.

Cllr Nuala Killeen queried the area of the provision of Courtesy spaces.

The Director of Services informed Cllr Killeen that the council would not be in agreement with courtesy spaces.

Pamela Pender A/SEO confirmed that a motion had been previously discussed at Municipal District level and that it was agreed that these spaces were outside the enforcement remit. To park in a disabled bay a blue badge is required, however, blue badge holders can park in any pay and display bay for free. Where a motorist parks in a disabled bay without the blue badge, a fine will be issued.

Gerry Dornan requested the need for cycle parking.

Evelyn Wright assured the committee members that Active Travel are making provision to make them available, but it is down to the Municipal District members to make the spaces available through the bye laws.

Evelyn Wright, DOS requested that the committee members would agree on the proposed County Parking Policy Framework.

On the proposal of Councillor Angela Feeney and seconded by Councillor Anne Connolly the Policy Framework was taken as read and approved to proceed to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) and to the Full Council for approval.

Item 7 – Meeting Calendar for 2023

The following proposed dates for 2023 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 2nd February 2023 @ 2.00pm
- Thursday 4th May 2023 @ 2.00pm
- Thursday 7th September 2023 @ 2.00pm
- Thursday 2nd November 2023 @ 2.00pm

Members of the Transportation SPC have agreed to the proposed dates and to have SPC meetings via teams where possible otherwise the meetings will be held in person in the Council Chamber.

Evelyn Wright, DOS reiterated that a site visit in the next few weeks in the company of the project team for the Athy Distributor Road scheme would be of great interest to the Roads, Transportation and Emergency Services SPC.

Cllr Ward concluded the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

The next meeting will be held on 02nd February 2023 MS Teams.

Cllr Paul Ward
2/2/2023