

**MINUTES OF THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION  
& EMERGENCY SERVICES SPC  
HYBRID MEETING HELD IN  
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE  
ON MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 AT 11.30am**

**I Láthair:**

**Baill:** Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire (Chairperson)  
Cllr. Peter Feeney  
Comh. Tomás Ó Curraóin  
Mr. Mark Green

**Baill ar Líne:** Cllr. Michael Connolly  
Ms. Anne Mitchell

**Oifigí:** Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Director of Services  
Mr. Gerry O'Malley, Chief Fire Officer  
Mr. Tom Prendergast, Senior Engineer  
Ms. Geraldine Byrne, Administrative Officer  
Ms. Sajil Elwood, Assistant Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Ms. Rachel Lowe, Senior Engineer  
Mr. Aodán MacDonncha

**Absent:** Cllr. Peter Roche  
Cllr. Albert Dolan  
Cllr. Louis O'Hara  
Mr. Colm Ryan

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Comh. Mac an Iomaire commenced the first meeting of the newly established Physical Development, Transportation & Emergency Services SPC 2024-2029 by welcoming the new members and invited all committee members to introduce themselves.

**ITEM NO. 1 - MINUTES OF TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE SPC  
MEETING HELD ON THE 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024.**

On the **Proposal** of Comh. Ó Curraoin and **Seconded** by Cllr. Feeney the minutes of the meeting of the Transportation & Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee held 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were agreed.

**ITEM NO. 2 – MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

### **ITEM NO. 3 – DRAFT NOISE ACTION PLAN 2024 - 2028**

Tom Prendergast, Senior Engineer made a presentation to the SPC committee on this item. *(A copy of the presentation was circulated to the committee members).*

- Draft Noise Action Plan went out to Statutory Public Consultation on Friday the 5th of July. The public consultation period lasted for eight weeks and ended on the Friday the 30th of August 2024.
- Three submissions received which have been considered and taken account of in the proposed final NAP as appropriate.
- Final NAP to be published in November 2024
- NAP reporting template to be provided to EPA following publication (confirmation of NAP content and planned actions)
- Deadline for EPA reporting to European Environment Agency is the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025

#### **Committee Members raised the following points and queries:**

- Cllr. Feeney & Mr. Green inquired was this NAP drafted before Moycullen Bypass was opened.
- Cllr. Connolly raised the issue as to how this will be funded, will additional funding be provided?
- Cllr. Connolly queried what is the threshold of noise in a residential area, and how is testing done? He referred to complaints he has received from residents of the Poolboy area, in relation to the N6, residents believe the noise limit at this location is above the threshold.
- Cllr. Connolly, if there are problems in particular areas, who do they refer them to?
- Comh. Ó Curraoin raised the issue of noise at areas such as docks/ports, railway stations, building sites etc.
- Cllr. Connolly queried in terms of roads, what type of overlay is best?

#### **Committee Members queries were responded to as follows by Mr. Prendergast:**

- Modelling had been carried out before Moycullen Bypass was constructed.
- Additional funding was received from The Department of Transport to carry out noise surveys in Moycullen and for monitoring of the area. Funding was received to provide for electronic equipment to carry out the surveys and take traffic counts.
- Noise surveys will be carried out to verify the model and this will deal with any gap.
- Funding is being provided from Galway County Councils own resources, there is no separate funding.
- In relation to the Poolboy area, representations had been received, noise surveys were carried out and claimants were responded to.
- The World Health Organisation noise guidelines for day are 50 decibels and for night are 45 decibels.
- Noise complaints can be referred to the Environment Section and they will be investigated to ascertain the level of noise. Level of noise is dependent on fabric of building, building fabric is a very important consideration.
- In relation to overlay on roads, there are low noise surfaces, which are more expensive, and their life span is not as long as other overlays, so there are budgetary implications.

Mr. Green proposed as there is no specific funding available to fund this Noise Action Plan, that this SPC would request there should be a specific budget allocation. Cllr. Connolly concurred with this proposal and commented that this issue needs to be flagged and issue raised as to where funding will be provided from.

Mr. Finn advised that the adoption of the NAP is an Executive Function and will be going before the CPG for their consideration. He advised funding will be provided from the Department of Transport and Transport Infrastructure Ireland. He noted Mr. Green and Cllr. Connolly's funding concerns and advised that when the NAP comes before the Plenary Meeting for consideration, that he will flag the issue of how the NAP will be funded.

Cllr. Feeney queried is there funding available to carry out the surveys as there are a lot of roads to be surveyed.

Mr. Prendergast advised that there will be funding provided by the Department of Transport, but it would be beneficial if there was a separate national fund.

#### **ITEM NO. 4 – SPEED LIMITS UPDATE**

Tom Prendergast, Senior Engineer made a presentation to the SPC committee on this item. *(A copy of the presentation was circulated to the committee members).*

#### **Committee Members raised the following points and queries:**

- Mr. Greene queried does the 30 km/h contained in the Supplementary Bye Laws only apply to estates that will be taking in charge and what will the situation be with other housing estates.
- Mr. Greene queried in relation to urban roads, how will this review be carried out.
- Cllr. Connolly commented that a 30km/h speed limit can be impossible to observe. He made reference to the following areas of Ballyforan Road, Cashel Cross to Clonberne and Castlegar Village in the vicinity of Mountbellew Agriculture College. He advised that these areas need to be looked at more in depth and sought clarification can changes be made at the Plenary meeting when the Elected Members will be considering the Speed Limit Review.

Mr. Prendergast advised that this would result in all housing estates been brought into line as per the last Bye Laws all other housing estates now have a speed limit of 30km/h. In relation to urban roads the guidelines advise that the review is carried out based on population and the key question will be is the extent in which the 30 km/h will apply. He advised that the CSO Urban Settlement Boundaries will also be considered.

Mr. Finn outlined that the Speed Limit Review was considered by the Roads SPC in April 2024 where approval was confirmed to proceed to identify local roads where 80km/h considered appropriate. The members of the SPC requested that these recommendations be presented to each Municipal District for agreement before proceeding with statutory bye-laws. Approval was granted by each MD and the draft bye-laws were prepared and submitted for public consultation. The draft bye-laws will be brought to the plenary meeting of Galway County Council in November 2024 for adoption and it is not possible at that stage to alter what was agreed.

Mr. Finn advised with regard to urban areas, the process is starting now, and he wished to receive guidance from the SPC as the adoption of the Speed Limit Review is a reserved function. There are principal towns and small towns, and a workshop will be organised. The National Review recommendation is that a 30km/h speed limit should apply, for city or town centres and this will be applied through amended bye-laws.

A discussion took place, and the overall consensus was that a 30km/h speed limit was a good idea. The following points were made:

- How will it be decided where an urban area, starts and where it finishes.
- 30km/h is definitely desirable for the centre of villages, however, the extent of the 30km/h must be aligned to the road environment to ensure appropriateness and effectiveness.
- The need to be carrying out assessments in line with The Departments guidance.
- The need for public consultation.
- Recommend periodic speed limits at schools.

#### **ITEM NO. 5 – WORK PROGRAMME**

The Work Programme was circulated to the SPC committee members prior to the meeting for their consideration. Mr. Finn outlined that this work programme will assist and give a clear work programme for the term of the SPC. This work programme will assist in the preparation of Agenda Items and is there to provoke discussion and it can be added to as the term of the SPC goes along.

#### **ITEM NO. 6 – CALENDAR OF SPC MEETINGS TO BE AGREED FOR 2025.**

It was agreed that the next meeting of Physical Development, Transportation & Emergency Services SPC will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025. However, to provide for some flexibility on diaries, this will be confirmed 2 weeks in advance.

#### **ITEM NO. 7 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Finn welcomed Mr. O'Malley, Chief Fire Officer to the SPC, as this was his first meeting to be part of the Transportation SPC.

Mr. O'Malley provided an update to the committee members in relation to the operations of Galway's Fire Service.

#### **Committee Members raised the following points and queries:**

- Cllr. Feeney commented that he was delighted to see the new Fire Station becoming operational in Athenry.
- Cllr. Feeney outlined that he would be concerned to see that some Fire Stations could go from a two pump to a one pump.


- Cllr. Connolly commented that he was concerned that Mr. O'Malley did not make any reference to Mountbellew Fire Station and outlined that it is very important that this fire station would be retained.
- Comh. Ó Curraoin enquired was there any decision made yet on the new site location for Galway City Fire Station currently located on Fr. Griffin Road.

Before the meeting concluded, committee members expressed their disappointment at the low attendance by committee members at the first meeting of the newly formed Physical Development, Transportation & Emergency Services SPC.

The meeting concluded, Comh. Mac an Iomaire Chairperson thanked the committee members for their attendance.

### Críochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

**Signed &  
Approved by:**

  
**Comh. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire**  
**Cathaoirleach**

**Date:** 3/3/2025