

MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
HYBRID MEETING HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE
ON WEDNESDAY 26TH APRIL 2024 AT 10.00am

I Láthair:

Baill: Cllr. Jim Cuddy (Acting Chairperson)
Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin
Mr. John Finn
Mr. Kenny Deery

Baill ar Líne: Cllr. Peter Roche
Cllr. Geraldine Donohue
Cllr. Gerry King
Cllr. Albert Dolan
Cllr. Declan Kelly
Mr. Diarmaid Kelly
Ms. Paula Higgins, Senior Executive Engineer

Oifigi: Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Director of Services
Ms. Rachel Lowe, Senior Engineer
Mr. Tom Prendergast, Senior Engineer
Mr. Enda Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Kasia Garvey, Executive Engineer
Ms. Geraldine Byrne, Administrative Officer
Ms. Sajil Elwood, Assistant Staff Officer

Absent: Mr. Tom Madden

It was Proposed by Comh. Ó Curraoin and agreed by the members of the Committee that Cllr. Jim Cuddy would preside as Acting Chairperson. Cllr. Roche later joined the meeting online and agreed that Cllr. Cuddy would continue to preside as Acting Chairperson for the duration of the meeting.

Cllr. Cuddy began the meeting by welcoming Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Director of Services to the meeting as he was recently appointed as the new Director of Services for Physical Infrastructure, Fire and Emergency Services and Climate Change.

ITEM NO. 1 - MINUTES OF TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE SPC MEETING HELD ON THE 20th September 2023.

On the **Proposal** of Cllr. Geraldine Donohue and **Seconded** by Comh. Ó Curraoin the minutes of the meeting of the Transportation & Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee held 28th February 2024 were agreed.

ITEM NO. 2 – MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Donohue thanked the Committee Members for their expressions of sympathy on the passing of her uncle former Councillor Pat Hynes, RIP.

ITEM NO. 3 – NATIONAL SPEED LIMIT REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Tom Prendergast, Senior Engineer made a presentation to the SPC committee on this item.

Committee Members raised the following points and queries:

- Cllr. Donohue referred to Mr. Prendergast recent meeting with the Principal of Peterswell National School in relation to their request seeking a reduction in the speed limit to 30km/h. She referred to Wicklow County Council already having set a precedent of 30km/h at all their schools.
- Cllr. Donohue raised the issue of the cost involved to provide periodic speed limit signage and commented that there should be a budget in place in order that Councillors would not be required to be donating from their Notice of Motion monies.
- Cllr. Roche along with other members commented that driver behavior was a big issue and that a lot of drivers are currently not observing speed limits. There needs to be improved enforcement and use of Speed Vans.
- Query was raised when the National Speed Limit Review is complete, will same be approved at a Plenary Meeting?
- When will new signage be implemented?
- Speed limit needs to be at 30km/h at Churches also.
- More funding from Government is required.
- Speed limit at Shop, Derrydonnell Cross needs to be lowered down from 100km/h and the R336 lowered to 30km/h.
- Cllr. Roche outlined how he recently travelled through Mount Temple, Westmeath where there was a serious of slow down ramps in place for a stretch of 1/2km which was very effective in getting a vehicle to slow down and he proposed that as a local authority we should consider a similar pilot scheme? It would be a cost-effective option.

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

- Once the National Speed Limit Review is complete, the Bill will have to be passed through the Dáil and then signed into law.
- It is recommended that default Speed Limits remain the same on the rural road network except for Local Roads where it is recommended that the default Speed Limit be reduced from 80 km/h to 60km/h and National Secondary Roads where it is recommended that the default Speed Limit be reduced from 100 km/h to 80 km/h.
- Co-ordination will take place across the Municipal Districts for implementation.
- Advised that he has contacted Wicklow County Council to obtain the background to their initiative for a speed limit of 30km/h at schools.
- He outlined that currently we are governed by the Guidelines that are currently in place and that any changes that may have to be made for particular areas can be done through producing new Bye Laws.

- When direction/report is received from Government it will go to Plenary Meeting for Elected Members Approval.
- Budget will be a consideration and there are limited budgets available for these changes and assistance from Notice of Motion monies would be helpful.

Mr. Uinsinn Finn, Director of Services advised the committee members that they were been asked to consider the following:

- Do we allow for all local roads to default to 60km/h?
- Do we consider roads that may be appropriate for 80 km/h, roads that are greater than 5.5m in width and have centre road markings?

Following discussion, it was agreed that should roads meet the criteria, of having a road width of greater than 5.5m and have centre road markings, that they then should also be considered and assessed under the Guidelines for Managing Speed Limits to determine if they are appropriate for a special speed limit of 80km/h.

The local road network will now be assessed under the above.

The members of the SPC also requested that this assessment and recommendation be brought to the Municipal Districts meetings for consideration once the assessment has been undertaken. Following consideration at Municipal District meetings, the recommendations received would be brought to a Plenary meeting for adoption by the elected members.

Mr. Kenny commented that when the committee members are considering the questions been asked that they need to be practical in their thinking and speed limits need to be realistic and due consideration needs to be giving where there are businesses located.

Cllr. Donohue raised the following points/queries:

- An Taisce are currently not accepting applications for "Safe Routes to Schools". She proposed that the SPC write to An Taisei for an update.
- Is there a budget in place for maintaining road signs after they have been erected in relation to maintenance and cleaning of the road signs?
- 1.5m distance as the passing distance for drivers overtaking cyclists
- Condition of roads in county Galway are atrocious and councillors have recently been advised that the Council are not in a position to deliver the Roads Program as adopted.

ITEM NO. 4 – REGIONAL ROADS SAFETY ANALYSIS

Rachel Lowe, Senior Engineer attended the meeting to provide an update to the SPC committee on this item.

Committee Members raised the following points and queries:

- Comh. Ó Curraoin raised the issue of the notorious stretch of the N59 near Killeen House at Bushy Park, something needs to be done make this stretch of road safer.

- Mr. John Finn complimented the Council on the recent roadworks that were carried out at Derrydonnell crossroads.
- Cllr. Roche requested the issue of safety at both the Balrobuck and Grange Junctions N84 be addressed.

ITEM NO. 5 – UPDATE ON FLOOD PROTECTION

Enda Gallagher, Senior Executive Engineer attended the meeting to provide an update to the SPC committee on this item.

Committee Members raised the following points and queries:

- Cllr. King queried was there an emerging preferred option with regards to Clifden Flood Relief Scheme and what is the timeframe?
- Cllr. King queried what stage Inishbofin coastal protection scheme at?

Committee Members queries were responded to as follows:

- Mr. Gallagher advised Cllr. King he would forward him on report for Clifden Flood Relief Scheme.
- There is OPW funding for €80k for works on east end pier at Inishbofin and the next stage is to appoint consultant to progress the coastal protection works.

ITEM NO. 6 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr. Cuddy requested that the wall along the Coast Road Oranmore be treated as a priority.

As this was the last SPC meeting before the local elections, Cllr. Roche, Cathaoirleach of the SPC thanked the committee members and executive for all their work and commitment over the past 5 years. He wished elected members well in all that they in the future who are not seeking re-election.

Cllr. King, Comh. Ó Curraoin and Mr. Kelly echoed these comments.

Cllr. Cuddy advised that he was retiring after 21 years' service and would not be seeking re-election and thanked committee members for everything.

Mr. Uinsinn Finn on behalf of the SPC wished Cllr. Cuddy a very happy retirement and wished all seeking re-election the best of luck.

The meeting concluded.

Críochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Signed &

Approved by:

PADRAIG MAC AN IOMHAIRE
Comh. Padraig Mac an Iomaire
Cathaoirleach

Date:

11/10/2024