

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Transportation Policy / Mobility Management and
Water Services held on Friday 1st October 2021**

Present: Cllr. Matt Doran (Chairman).

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, Cllr. Patrick O’Neill, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Michael Delaney, Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, Cllr. Peter Cleere, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty

Mr. Ger Mooney, Mr. Barry Lynch, Mr. Gary Graham

In Attendance: Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services; Mr. Seamus Kavanagh, Senior Engineer, Ms. Catherine Corr.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The Minutes of previous meeting of SPC 2 held on the 25th June, 2021 were adopted. Proposed by Cllr. Patrick O’Neill and seconded by Cllr Pat Dunphy.

2. Meeting with TII

A meeting had been held by TII in December 2020. The minutes of the meeting were circulated to the members with the agenda.

Tim Butler set out the main issues raised to include:

- Footpaths and public lighting on national roads.
- Issue of right turns off national roads.
- Review of speed limits on national routes.
- Acknowledgement of the commitment of TII to major and minor and safety schemes throughout the County.
- The next meeting will have 2 reps from each Municipal District.

Issues were raised by Cllr. O’Neill, Cllr. Cullen, Cllr. Dunphy, Cllr. Delaney and Cllr. Breathnach:

- Individual junction that were causing specific difficulties and taking some time to put on the agenda.
- Speed limit on national roads
- Progressing projects on national roads
- Accident data and prioritising projects.
- Ensure we meet every year as there has been long gaps between meetings.
- Since 2017 we had only 3 meetings.

Seamus Kavanagh and Tim Butler replied to some of the queries raised. KCC had a progressive Road Design team and have good success in progressing projects in comparison to other LA’s. KCC is competing with all national routes in the country some of which have much higher volumes of traffic and accident levels. KCC also try to address issues at junctions and drainage issues when progressing overlay projects.

Cllr Doran acknowledged that work of the Road Design Team and asked for next meeting to be arranged with TII before year end.

3. Parking at Motorway Junction

Cllr. Doran had raised this matter previously. He welcomed that workers were sharing lifts but has concerns with regard to safety, impact on adjoining property and landowners, poor lighting and the condition of verges and hard shoulders being used. The two particular areas of concern were Ballyhale and Danesfort.

Contributions made by Jim Mulhall, Cllr. O'Neill, Cllr. Dunphy, Cllr. Breathnach, Cllr. Delaney and Cllr. Cullen. Included

- Positive message of carpooling for climate action.
- Concerns of farmers accessing lands
- Lack of regulation

It was purposed by Tomas Breathnach and seconded by Cllr. Delaney to prepare a Notice of Motion for the next Council meeting to write to the Department to implement a policy in regard to same.

4. Speed Limit Reviews

Seamus Kavanagh presented the background to the speed limit review, setting out the guidelines that have to be adhered to and the timelines for same.

Contributions were made by Cllr. Doran, Cllr. Dunphy, Cllr. O'Neill, Cllr. Delaney and Cllr. Cullen to include:

- Default speed limit of 80 should not be used on certain roads as it is not possible on some roads and sometimes becomes a target.
- Look at different signage permissible
- Need to explain the criteria/guidelines and what can and cannot be amended.
- Signs won't work need to look at monitoring and enforcement.
- Speed through villages is a major issue and one of the bigger issues raised during the last Local Elections.
- The review should be greater than just changing limits, there should be a strategy.
- The importance role feedback signs play in reducing speed.
- Perhaps have a tiered speed limit into villages – 80 – 60 -50.
- Need a national campaign to sit along with review.
- Responsibility of all road users.

Tim Butler and Seamus Kavanagh set out that we would look at villages and interventions that could be made to reduce speed in villages. Traffic calming and raised Pedestrian Crossings would be considered. The review will coincide with the National and Local Road Safety Strategy 2021 – 2030 and this will act as an important form to get out the message of road safety.

5. Cycling Safe Passing Signs.

Cllr. Doran welcomed Catriona Corr to the meeting. Catriona set out that there are a number of long cycle routes throughout the County used by experienced cyclists. She set out that there is a need for a second category of route in the region – 10-15km in length. She suggested engagement with

cycling clubs, cycle campaign group (who also engage with schools) and other interested parties. From this a plan would be developed with regard to the opportunity's signage on certain routes. The committee welcomed this approach.

Contributions from Cllr. Cullen, Cllr. Dunphy and Cllr. Doherty included:

- Inclusion of Ballyhale in the discussion where many of the school children cycle to school.
- Installation of bicycle racks at school to encourage pupils to cycle.
- Need for an education programme for cyclists as well as motorists.
- Need to get out the wider safety message for all road users.

In reply it was stated that the wider safety message should be coordinated nationally and encouraged throughout Road Safety strategy.

6. Broadband Rollout

Tim Butler presented on the current work underway by National Broadband Ireland and the engagement with Area Engineers and the Planning section. By the end of 2022 it is expected that 8,177 of the 18,300 properties in the intervention area will be facilitated to connect to broadband.

Cllr. Matt Doran expressed his disappointment that large tracts of Callan/Thomastown Municipal Area were not part of the initial phase. Cllr. Breathnach and all agreed that there was an important issue for the SPC and should be left as a standing item on the agenda for future meetings.

7. Water Capital Programme

Tim Butler set out the details of the Small Town and Village Growth programme issued by Irish Water. KCC had applied for 11 schemes and was awarded 1 for Waste Water and water if required in Bennettsbridge. It is envisaged that both will progress in the current programme 2020 -2024.

While welcomed by all it was noted that it was disappointing that other schemes were not successful particularly Mullinavat and Inistogue. Questions raised included a policy on main replacement on water schemes the subject of leaks and also in relation to revitalising the group sewerage scheme. It was explained that Irish Water has a mains replacement programme based on leak history. Also, it was proposed by Cllr. Breathnach and seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen that a motion be put to Council to write to the Department to encourage funding to Group Sewerage Schemes in the future.

8. AOB

Cllr. Doran asked the non-elected members if they had any policy they would like to form part of the agenda:

Barry Lynch:

- Welcomed the development of the Abbey Quarter and could contribute to design in accessibility to connect to the Abbey Quarter and provide improved links to the city environment.
- Also input into future expansion or changes to the bus route or bus types.

Jim Mulhall:

- Broadband was an important issue for those he represented and glad to see progress in this region.

Ger Mooney:

- Has a meeting with the Union in coming weeks and will email in any concerns.

Gary Graham:

- Had difficulties with sound and will email in.

Cllr. Fidelis Doherty:

- Asked if the issue of not performing septic tank and inspections could be addressed at the next meeting.

The next meeting was set for Friday, 3rd of December at 3pm.

This concluded the meeting