

Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire and Emergency Services Issues held in County Hall on Friday 2nd December 2016.

Present: Cllr. Matt Doran (Chairman).

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach; Cllr. Michael Doyle; Cllr. Michael McCarthy; Cllr. Fidelis Doherty; Cllr. Eamon Aylward

Mr. Barry Lynch; Mr. Gary Graham; Mr. Michael Rice.

In Attendance: Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services; Mr. Martin Butler, Administrative Officer.

Apology: Ms. Mairead Phelan; Mr. Billy Walsh

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of previous meeting of SPC 2 held on 2nd September 2016.

Proposed by Cllr. Michael McCarthy

Seconded by Cllr. Michael Doyle

and Agreed.

2. BUS SHELTERS

Mr. T. Butler informed the meeting that under Phase One of this Programme funding was provided for the provision of bus stops and shelters at the following locations:

Phase One-Location	No. of Shelters	Status
Mooncoin	1.No. Shelter	Installed
Castlecomer Road, Kilkenny	1.No. Shelter	Installed
Gowran	1.No. Shelter	Installed
Paulstown	1.No. Shelter	Installed
Glenmore Hill	1.No. Shelter	Under construction

The locations listed under Phases Two and Three are as follows and it is expected that this Programme will be completed in its entirety next year.

Phase Two-Location	No. of Shelters
Slieverue	1.No.Shelter
Piltown	2.No.Shelter
Mullinavat	1.No.Shelter
Castlecomer	2.No.Shelter

Phase Three-Location	No.of Shelters
Thomastown	1.No.Shelter
Johnstown	2.No.Shelter
Rockshire Road, Ferrybank	1.No.Shelter

The provision of bus shelters in Callan and Freshford was discussed at the meeting along with the possibility of providing litter bins close to the shelters and advertising on the shelters.

In relation to City bus service, discussions have taken place with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and two city bus routes are proposed with regular timetables, approximately 38 stops and a number of shelters. A presentation will be made to the Kilkenny Municipal Authority in January by the NTA followed by public information and a tender process for selection of a service provider. It is hoped to have the service in place mid-2017.

3. Broadband Update

The Department of Communications has overall responsibility for the rollout of rural broadband. Additionally, the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs is engaging with local authorities to ensure a co-ordinated approach is taken in the National rollout having regard to planning, licensing, protected structures etc. Initial work undertaken by the Council identified areas of priority throughout the County for broadband rollout.

A broadband officer has now been appointed by the Council and who will liaise with the preferred tenderer once appointed. The Council is also in the process of setting up two committees - one to examine the infrastructure requirements of the rollout and the other to prepare a digital strategy for County Kilkenny.

A map was presented at the meeting which showed areas where high speed broadband services are currently, or will be available commercially within the next 5 years. Areas coloured amber on the map which will not have access to 30mb broadband commercially without financial assistance from the state will be included in the tender process.

4. SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS RESPONSE.

Mr. T. Butler referred to contact details for IFA personnel that was made available to Council staff previously and through whom it was possible to coordinate the delivery of grit and the putting in place, by the farming community, of measures to properly utilize that grit in prolonged periods of severe weather. It was agreed to have this list updated in the event of future severe weather.

It was noted that the Council received €3.3m funding in 2016 for small flood relief schemes.

The meeting was informed that the army has been proactive over the last 2 months in training for winter emergencies. Their equipment has been updated which includes boats, pumping equipment and lights. During a discussion on this it was agreed to record thanks to the army for their invaluable assistance during the severe weather last winter.

5. Fix dates for SPC2 meetings in 2017

The following dates for SPC2 meetings in 2017 were agreed:

03/03/ 2017

09/06/ 2017

01/09/2017

01/12/2017

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Items for consideration and discussion in 2017

- Parking and safety features at schools.
- Parking of vehicles near motorway schemes.
- Electric cars.

This concluded the business of the meeting.