

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Transportation Policy / Mobility
Management and Water Services held on Thursday 2nd June, 2022**

Present: Cllr. Matt Doran (Chairman).

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, Cllr. Michael Delaney, Gerard Ferris.

In Attendance: Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services, Mr. Seamus Kavanagh, Senior Engineer, Mr. Joe Scully, Executive Engineer, Ms. Emir Slattery, Senior Executive Engineer, Ms. Lorraine McGuire, Staff Officer.

Apologies: Jim Mulhall, Barry Lynch, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of previous meeting of SPC 2 held on the 4th March, 2022 were adopted. Proposed by Cllr. Michael Delaney and seconded by Cllr Pat Dunphy.

2. Waste Water Collection for Villages Settlements

Seamus Kavanagh presented on the Waste Water Collection for Villages Settlements as follows:

- Circular L1/22 issued by the Dept. on 28th April, 2022 with regard to advance funding available under Measure 8 of the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2022 – 2025.
- This is to address the Waste Water Collection and treatment needs of rural villages and settlements not currently serviced by Irish Water.
- Assist in meeting the requirements of the Drinking Water Regulations in relation to rural water supplies and support the delivery of measures under the Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022 – 2027 to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.
- There is a total fund available of €50m from 2022 – 2025 with €5m allocated for 2022.
The measure will be co-funded – 85% from the Department and 15% from the local authority

- Funding is limited to villages/settlements with a 'core area' that have at least a 150 population equivalent (PE) based on its existing population.
- The closing date for funding requests is 15th September, 2022.
- There are 21 settlements listed for Kilkenny as per the current Development Plan. However, none of these have a PE of 150

Cllr. Pat Dunphy queried why Carrigeen is not included in the list of settlements.

Cllr. Matt Doran queried if two smaller settlements e.g. Hugginstown & Newmarket could be merged to satisfy the PE requirement for funding as there are areas where much of the population is outside the village.

Seamus Kavanagh informed the meeting that he will enquire from the Planning Department with regard to the criteria for inclusion in the list of settlements. He further advised that he will liaise with Planning and Environment Departments in relation to prioritising the most vulnerable areas for funding.

Tim Butler enquired from Seamus if a treatment plant serving an area is inadequate, can the funding be used to upgrade/add to it.

Cllr. Michael Delaney enquired if the Tullaroan scheme could be upgraded should there be applications for future developments. Cost is a major factor.

Cllr. Matt Doran stated that a no. of small schemes which would have been serving 4-5 households are now at capacity serving 10-11 households. This will have implications for new planning applications and will be address in the planning conditions.

Seamus Kavanagh advised that staff from water services will be attending a workshop on 16th June, 2022 and he will get more information from this in relation to the queries raised and how to proceed with the application for funding.

3. Water and Waste Water Capacity Registers March 2022

Seamus Kavanagh gave a presentation on the Water and Waste Water Capacity Registers March 2022 outlining the following:

Water Register:

28 Supplies – 9 Green – capacity

6 Amber – potential capacity – each application to connect will be Reviewed

13 Red – no connections can be made to these supplies. They require Capital investment

There are capacity issues county wide. Planning applicants in Graignamanagh & Castlecomer cannot connect to the public water supply and are required to sink their own wells if feasible.

Waste Water Register:

34 Supplies – 25 Green – lots of capacity – some in need of upgrade
2 Amber – potential capacity
7 Red – no capacity

Bennettsbridge Small Village Grant - currently looking at possible land acquisition to upgrade and utilise the existing plant.

Any queries in relation to this can be directed back to Seamus Kavanagh.

4. Update on Flood Schemes

Emir Slattery gave an update on Flood Schemes in relation to:

1. Graiguenamanagh FRS
2. Ballyhale FRS
3. Minor Works Applications
4. Scheme Viability Reviews – Pilot Schemes

Cllr. Pat Dunphy sought an update in relation to the Thomastown Scheme and the stream at Portnascully/Pill to Knockhouse, Kilmacow. It crosses the N24 and causes a lot of flooding.

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach also enquired re the flooding on the N24 at Piltown and the delay in progressing these works.

In response to Cllrs. Dunphy & Breathnach, Emir Slattery stated that she will contact Stan Cullen, Area Engineer for an update re works on the N24 and revert.

She confirmed that 6 schemes have been approved and 2 have commenced. Other schemes are awaiting OPW approval to move to Stage 1 to proceed.

Tim Butler stated that while the OPW are positive towards progressing the remaining schemes in the coming months.

5. Speed Limit Review

Joe Scully gave an update on the speed limit review as follows:

- Public Consultation maps are available in the Council offices and on Consult.ie with an observation/submission period from 6th May, to 10th June, 2022
- The Roads Dept. will review any submissions/objections received
- The elected members will consider the Roads report on submissions at the July, 2022 Municipal District meetings
- Draft B speed limit bye-laws & maps will be prepared in August, 2022

- Proposed adoption of speed limit changes at Council meeting September, 2022

There have only been 4-5 submissions to date. Cllr. Matt Doran asked if it could be re-advertised to remind the public of the final submission date. Tim Butler confirmed that he will refresh the ad and re-run it on KCLR.

Tim Butler stated that the Council is constrained by the Speed Limit Guidelines and it for some of the members suggestions amendments to the guidelines would be of assistance.

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach stated that members need to exercise their judgment with regard to speed limits and these are informed by advice from Roads engineers but also by the public.

Cllr. Pat Dunphy agreed that the focus needs to be raised on the public consultation but feels if people make submissions, we should be able to implement change. He cited the road from Grannagh to New Aglish where there is a lot of pedestrian traffic and feels the speed limit in this area should be reduced to protect these.

Tim Butler advised that there are specific guidelines in relation to 30km zones and that these are being revised at the moment. Contact with the Oireachtas Members may be of assistance in this regard

Cllr. Matt Doran enquired if the reduction in speed limits from 80 - 50 could be staggered 80 - 60 - 50 for example. Seamus Kavanagh advised that speed limits were implemented as per the current regulations in place but the next review of the regulations will bring more changes as there will be increased focus on active travel options.

6. Road Safety Plan 2015- 2020 Draft Review (report to follow)

Tim Butler updated the meeting on the current status in relation to the Road Safety Plan. The new Road Safety Plan in line with the National Road Safety Strategy 2021 – 2030 was delayed due to Covid.

Some work has been done to close out the 2015 – 2020 plan. When complete, the review will be presented to the members in September 2022 and work will then begin in relation the Road Safety Strategy.

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach referred to previous road signage in relation to road safety which stated the no. of road deaths in each county. He enquired why they were removed or if they could be reinstated. He also requested up to date fatality figures in comparison with the UK, Norway & Sweden.

Cllr. Matt Doran agreed with Cllr. Breathnach with regard to the impact of this signage.

7. Broadband

Tim Butler gave an update on the current work underway by National Broadband Ireland and the engagement with Area Engineers and the Planning section. He stated that he is waiting on additional information from NBI which he will have prior to the next meeting. There are currently 8 commitments for broadband connection points with 5 remote hubs to be officially launched in Glenmore on 15th June, 2022.

NBI are proceeding with a further 2 points at Carrick-on Suir and New Ross and works are to commence on these within 2 – 3 weeks. By December, 2023 the entire area will have broadband infrastructure in place.

Cllr. Pat Dunphy enquired if a representative from Eir could be invited to the next SPC meeting to discuss their plans in relation to the larger villages. Tim Butler confirmed that he had requested Steve Coverdale to have an Eir representative at the September SPC meeting.

8. AOB

An email was received from Barry Lynch, who was unable to attend the meeting – this email to be circulated to the SPC. He raised the issues of:

- Fly-tipping – Tim Butler will forward this to the Environment section for comment
- Carbon emissions – the NTA have committed to changing bus fleets from diesel to electric when a tender is in place

In relation to the fly-tipping and rubbish on roadsides, Ger Ferris asked would it be possible to run a campaign. Tim Butler will refer this to the Environment Team.

Tim also stated that further information will issue in relation to the County Cleanup. The former C.E. Colette Byrne had sought support from prominent businesses in Kilkenny to support a clean up day. This will be piloted in Kilkenny this year on Kilkenny Day in October and will be rolled out County wide with a clean up day on St. Brigid's Day annually.

The next meeting of SPC 2 will be held on 1st September, 2022 with the final meeting on 1st December, 2022.

This concluded the meeting