

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Transportation Policy / Mobility
Management and Water Services held on Thursday 12th October, 2023**

Present: Cllr. Matt Doran (Chairman).

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Barry Lynch, Ella Dunphy, Jim Mulhall, Seán Ó hArgáin

In Attendance: Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services; Mr. Seamus Kavanagh, Senior Engineer; Lorraine McGuire, Staff Officer, Claire Buckley, Administrative Officer, Ken Boland, PLEEP & Kieran Kelly, Machinery Yard.

Apologies: Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, Cllr. Pat O'Neill, Eileen Ryan, Michael Delaney, Ger Mooney

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising

Chairman Cllr. Matt Doran opened the meeting by welcoming the new members of SPC2 – Ella Dunphy & Seán Ó hArgáin.

The minutes of SPC2 meeting held on 22nd June, 2023 were adopted.
Proposed by Barry Lynch and seconded by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty.

2. Winter Maintenance 2023/24

Seamus Kavanagh presented the Winter Maintenance Plan 2023/2024 giving an overview of the programme.

The Council use Viasala Manager technology to monitor the road temperature and identify nights\times to be salted. The service delivery target for the Priority 1 and 2 (monitored and treated from 16th October 2023 to 30th April, 2024) network is to keep the roads frost/ice free 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. Kilkenny County Council also salt P3 local routes through the MD's. These routes are salted during prolonged severe weather events.

Cllr. Matt Doran thanked Seamus for his presentation and acknowledged the work being done in this area.

3. Fleet Management

Kieran Kelly presented to the meeting with regard to the decarbonisation of Kilkenny County Council's vehicle fleet and the current status in relation to the Vehicle Replacement Programme and the opportunities in relation to electric vehicles, alternative fuels and the obstacles.

Cllr. Matt Doran thanked Kieran for his presentation and noted the value of promoting the message that the Council are reducing our carbon footprint. Ella Dunphy stated that more should be seen to be done in the city which is not as dependent on the infrastructure.

It was acknowledged that the 'greener environment' art and signage on the sides of the Council vehicles is very positive and effective.

Contributions from Cllr. Fidelis Doherty with regard to how the purchase of a vehicle is decided – Kieran confirmed that vehicles are replaced under the vehicle replacement plan by a 5 year lease when agreed with Finance based on the budget.

Barry Lynch enquired about the generation of power to be stored or put back into our vehicles.

Contributions from Cllr. Tomás Breathnach in relation to how the number of charging points to be installed in Kilkenny is determined.

Tim Butler informed the meeting that Kilkenny has been identified for 40-60 units but this has not been decided to date.

Seán Ó hArgáin queried if the cost of Electric Vehicles might result in retaining vehicles with high emissions. However, Kieran advised that the fuel can be switched immediately to HVO, the only issue being cost.

4. Speed Limits

Tim Butler gave an update to the meeting in relation to the review of speed limits carried out under Action 6 of the National Road Safety Strategy (2021-2030). The recommendations won't be implemented and Guidelines won't be in place until 2025. However, those already agreed will be implemented.

He also noted that in relation to urban roads, the definition of an urban area and its consistency with 'built up area' will need to be defined.

Cllr. Matt Doran thanked Tim for his presentation and acknowledged that the implementation of revised speed limits will involve a huge body of work.

Cllr. Pat Dunphy requested a breakdown of the no. of fatalities in Kilkenny by road type. Tim agreed to access this information through the Gardaí and circulate to the SPC members.

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach queried if the environmental impact of driving at 30km p/h. He also enquired why we don't use 40 and 70km/h zones as in other EU countries. This is due to Govt. policy who have adopted to use 30/50/80 km p/h zones. He noted the need for engagement around speed limits and recommended the Council launch a public campaign as soon as the revised speed limits are implemented. Tim agreed that the Council will do so now and will do it again at the next review.

Seán Ó hArgáin commented on the number of fatalities in rural areas. He noted the change in driver behaviour and highlighted the need for more communication on speed reduction with particular focus on pedestrians and cyclists.

5. Public Lighting Update - PLEEP

Ken Boland gave a presentation to the meeting on the programme for Kilkenny and the progress to date.

Cllr. Matt Doran acknowledged the work being done in this area, particularly as Kilkenny is the lead of 9 authorities covered.

Contributions from Barry Lynch clarifying that the roads and estates covered by the PLEEP project.

Cllr. Pat Dunphy enquired if the project is on target – in particular in relation to the Piltown area. Ken acknowledged that it will be difficult to meet the targets but he would revert after the next progress meeting (to be held 13th October, 2023)

On foot of query from Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, Ken confirmed that the old lights being replaced are recycled by WEEE.

6. AOB

Cllr. Matt Doran reminded the meeting, in particular the new members, to let the members of the SPC know of any policies they wish to generate.

He requested Tim to forward a note of thanks to former members Gary Graham & Ger Ferris for their contributions to the SPC.

The next meeting was proposed and agreed to be held on Thursday 7th December, 2023 at 4.00 p.m.

This concluded the meeting.