

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Transportation Policy / Mobility
Management and Infrastructure held on Friday 6th June 2025**

Present: Cllr. Deirdre Cullen (Chairperson).
Cllr. Michael Delaney, Cllr. Maurice Shortall, Mr Brendan Hickey, Mr Michael Duggan, Ms Eileen Ryan and Ms Mary Brennan

In Attendance: Ms Mary Mulholland - Director of Services, Mr Seamus Kavanagh - Senior Engineer Roads, Mr James Brennan - Rural Water Services, Mr Michael Arthurs - Environment, Ms Claire Buckley - Roads & Ms Elise O'Hara - Roads.

Apologies: Cllr. Pat Dunphy and Cllr. Joe Sheridan

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Chairperson Cllr. Deirdre Cullen opened the meeting by welcoming all and noted the apologies.

The minutes of the SPC2 meeting held on Friday, 14th March 2025 were adopted, proposed by Cllr. Michael Delaney and seconded by Michael Duggan.

2. Rural Water Programme

James Brennan gave a presentation on the Rural Water Scheme, discussing the different types of schemes, water quality testing and the councils supervisory role in drinking water regulations. James opened the floor for questions.

Michael Duggan asked how often the rural water liaison group meet. James informed the group that this is a quarterly meeting. Michael Duggan expressed concern over the HSE's discovery of E-Coli in private wells. The levels in Kilkenny are twice the national average, what is the criteria to qualify for grants. James gave some examples of who qualifies for the grant and discussed the application process, noting that all samples must be tested at an ILab accredited centre.

Mary Brennan spoke about the spread of slurry and the effects this may have on rural water. Mary discussed that she witnessed slurry shooting into the air and that there is a possibility that this is landing in wells. This refers to small farms whom are not required to inject slurry.

Mary requested that communication about rural water on the county council website is improved, as it is difficult to source information. Mary asked what parameters are tested chemically. James noted that there are two groups for testing and this information is in the legislation.

Cllr. Deirdre Cullen asked to minute the difficulty in finding information on the Kilkenny County Council website. Cllr. Cullen suggested that the point on slurry contamination be brought to the SPC for Environment.

Eileen Ryan spoke about the water testing that occurred in Maddoxtown. Eileen asked what training the testers have, why there was no explanation for the testing on the Kilkenny County Council website and why there was no retraction when the water tested came back negative. James explained why water is tested at certain points of consumption and explained that the issue in Maddoxtown was a customer side issue. Eileen enquired about a notification from the federation she received in relation to exceedance. James explained how the sampling process is evenly distributed.

Brendan Hickey said there is a code of conduct for spreading slurry and that whether the slurry is pumped into the ground or into the air it makes no difference to water quality. It is pumped into the ground for the benefit of air quality.

3. Work Programme for SPC

Mary Mulholland spoke about the development of a work programme for the SPC and hopes to get feedback on the below proposals for inclusion:

- Speed limit review process
- Climate action measures (fleet management, products used, flood schemes etc.)
- Rural Water Programme
- Country lanes – the issue of large 10 year waiting lists and how to overcome this
- Road Safety – developing an action plan for the Road Safety Working Together Group

4. Zevi

Seamus Kavanagh presented on the Zevi programme and the upcoming objectives and challenges for Local Authorities. Local Authorities are coming up with a local and regional electric vehicle plan. Cllr. Michael Delaney questioned if chargers would be placed in villages and small towns. Seamus Kavanagh said that we are looking at all options for small villages and towns, however, many will already have access to home charging. Brendan Hickey questioned if Kilkenny County Council could run the process themselves from start to finish. Seamus discussed that Kilkenny County Council will put the infrastructure in place and lease the location to a private company who will supply the charging equipment. Kilkenny County Council will generate revenue from the lease arrangement.

5. AOB

Cllr. Maurice Shortall spoke about the N78 in Castlecomer and asked Seamus Kavanagh to contact TII re signage to alert motorists there are deer crossing, similar to signage in County Laois.

Eileen Ryan brought up the subject of increasing the amount of water faucets in the city as this would benefit locals and tourists and reduce litter. Seamus Kavanagh noted that there is a new drinking faucet at the Parade and some in the city currently.

Eileen Ryan spoke about the bus stop on Hebron Road toward Castlecomer and how it is a danger and asked if the stop could possibly be moved back to allow for more room for people and luggage. Seamus Kavanagh said that he would refer the query to the Kilkenny MD office.

Cllr. Michael Delaney thanked all in attendance and closed the meeting.

This concluded the meeting.