

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Transportation Policy / Mobility  
Management and Water Services held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**Present:** Cllr. Matt Doran (Chairman).

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

**In Attendance:** Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services; Mr. Seamus Kavanagh, Senior Engineer, Mr. Michael Murphy, Senior Executive Engineer, Ms. Claire Buckley, A/ Administrative Officer.

**Apologises:** Cllr Michael Delaney

**1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising**

Cllr. Pat Dunphy raised the issue of an update from TII further meeting. Tim Butler responded stating that a meeting with TII would be arranged in the new year and two members from each Municipal District would be invited.

A letter has issued to the Minister regarding carpooling and carparking at motorway junctions, we are awaiting a reply.

Cllr Dunphy requested that water and waste water upgrades and network replacement be placed on next Agenda and the Council follow up with IW with regard to attending a Council meeting. TB replied an acknowledgement had been received and we would put on next SPC Agenda and update once reply has been received.

The Minutes of previous meeting of SPC 2 held on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2021 were adopted.

Proposed by Cllr. Peter Cleere and seconded by Cllr Pat O’Neill.

**2. Speed Limit Review**

Michael Murphy presented on the Speed Limit Review Process, stating that any speed limit can now be reviewed within this 5-year period also. He set out:

- TII have the authority for decisions on appropriate speed limits on national roads.
- A meeting was held with An Garda Síochána this week to discuss their list of submissions.

- The proposed time for the commencement public consultation / submissions is March 2022.

Once submissions are assessed the revised draft will be presented to the Municipal District Meetings in May/June 2022 and subsequently presented to Council for adoption. It is expected that revised Bye Laws will be operational during Q4, 2022.

Cllr Dunphy asked for clarification on National Roads - Michael Murphy confirmed that TII have the final decision which is in line with the guidelines.

In reply to a question from Cllr F Doherty, Michael Murphy confirmed the timeline outlined above with stand.

Cllr T Breathnach asked if it is possible to get a summary of the major guidelines to be made available to the Councillors. Michael Murphy agreed to issue the guidelines and summary.

Cllr T Breathnach asked if applicable can decelerated speed limits on approach to villages be used if possible and are the TII's decision on National routes incorporated on speed limit review.

Michael Murphy confirmed that policy of deceleration is normal practice, and, National Routes are incorporated in to Kilkenny County Council Bye-Laws

### **3. Road Works update 2021**

Seamus Kavanagh gave a presentation on the Roads Works programme completed in 2021 with a budget of €28m:

National Roads €8.3m:

- N24 Waterford to Cahir
- N25 Waterford to Glenmore
- Castlecomer Pedestrian Bridge
- N24 Tower Road
- N77 Ballyragget Village to Ballynaslee Road
- N24 Carrick Road Improvement

Additional projects:

- Projects €2m spend for 8 roundabouts on Ring road.
- Extended project on Carrick Road.
- Ring Road extension Road Plan.

Non National Roads €16.8m

RI	€8.3m	88 projects completed
RM	€2.3m	62 projects completed
DG	€2.65m	53 projects completed
Drainage	€652,000	69 projects
Low Cost	€373,000	14 projects

Non National Roads           €400,000       1.5km road. Have applied for further funding for next year.

CIR                               €639,000       13 lanes completed

Active Travel preparatory works this year, will form a large part of our road programme 2022.

Cllr Matt Doran expressed his thanks to all the outdoor staff and Road Staff for all their great work.

Cllr T Breathnach asked is €28m typical of the amount Kilkenny would get each year and if the split between National and non-national typical. Seamus Kavanagh replied that there had been a significant increase on non-national roads grants and there are additional schemes on board also this year.

#### **4. Revised Severe Weather Response Plan and Flood Emergency Response**

Tim Butler gave a detailed presentation outlining the revised Server Weather Response Plan and Flood Emergency Response.

It was noted that during severe weather events, along with public safety and maintaining critical routes, it is also essential to ensure Water and Waste Water supplies are maintained. KCC also works closely with other statutory agencies HSE & Gardaí during these events.

The co-operation with the IFA in severe weather was acknowledged and their assistance is invaluable in prolonged cold spells.

The importance of Flood Relief Schemes and funding from the OPW was highlighted as an additional measure to protect communities.

Cllr M Doran noted it was a very comprehensive update of our Emergency Response Plan.

#### **5. Broadband Rollout**

Tim Butler presented on the current work underway by National Broadband Ireland and the engagement with Area Engineers and the Planning section.

Section 254 licences to deal with Broadband have been assessed by the Area Engineers and issued where appropriate. Broadband Ireland will over the next 8 months put cables and poles in place, this will roll out to 8500 households by Sept/October next year.

Cllr T Breathnach asked if Broadband Ireland could be invited back to the full Council meeting in February to give an update on 2021 and their delivery plan for

2022. Tim Butler will put this request on CPG to decide and can invite to the February meeting if agreed.

Cllr P Dunphy raised the issue that the areas mentioned need to be more specific on what will be delivered by Sept/Oct next year. Tim Butler will arrange to resend the map on Phase 1 of Broadband for Kilkenny.

## **6. AOB**

Cllr. Doran asked that a note be sent to the external members acknowledging their co-operation and contribution during the year.

Plan for SPC 2 meeting for 2022 suggested first Friday each quarter:

- 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022
- 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022
- 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022
- 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022

The next meeting was set for Friday, 4th of March 2022.

**This concluded the meeting**