

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Transportation Policy / Mobility  
Management and Water Services held on Friday 4th March 2022**

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

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, Cllr. Peter Cleere, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Cllr. Michael Delaney, Barry Lynch, Gerard Ferris.

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

**Apologises:** Jim Mulhall

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

The Minutes of previous meeting of SPC 2 held on the 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 were adopted.

Proposed by Cllr. Michael Delaney and seconded by Cllr Pat Dunphy.

**2. Capital Roads Projects incl. N24 & N25**

Seamus Kavanagh presented on the Capital Roads Projects as follows:

- N 25 – Waterford to Glenmore, to improve approximately 9.5 km of the N 25. Stage 2 was complete and a 600m corridor selected. No funding allocation for this scheme in 2022.
- N 24 Waterford to Cahir, to improve approximately 60km. Stage 2 options report ready for public display which would be followed by a preferred corridor. No funding allocation for this scheme in 2022.
- N 24 Tower Road Safety Scheme. €3m allocation, construction stage Q3/Q4 this year,
- North/South Link Road. Ferrybank Area, to link up Old N24 to Abbey Road. 75% funding URDF, 25% funding from Council own funds.
- Kilkenny North Ring Road extension, 1.5 km in length. Currently a SARS report due Q1 2022.

- CBS Link Road, Kilkenny County Council did a Part 8, this has received Part 8 planning permission. An Bord Pleanála confirmed decision of Kilkenny County Council that a Stage 2 AA was not required. It is gone to tender today, aim to have Consultants on site by Q3 this year.
- Breagh Valley, Link Road Design, estimated cost €3m if built, it would free up traffic the area and open up for Active Travel, walking and cycling.

### **3. National Road Safety Strategy**

Tim Butler gave a detailed presentation on the Government's National Road Safety Strategy 2021 - 2030 outlining the following:

- Journey towards Vision Zero - 7 Safe Systems priority interventions
- Targets
- Phased Approach
- Phase 1 Action Plan 2021 -2024
  - High-impact actions (50)
  - Support Action (136)
- Examples of Key Action:
  - Safe Roads & Roadsides
  - Safe Speeds
  - Safe vehicles
  - Safe Road Use
  - Post - Crash Response
  - Safe & Healthy Modes of Transport
  - Safe Work - related Road Use

Tim Butler advised that a smaller Working Group would be set-up and would report back to the SPC on same.

Cllr. T Breathnach noted there are different degrees of vulnerable road users. Cllr. T Breathnach also noted that Ireland had the second lowest fatalities in Europe in 2019 per capita and requested if we could get up to date fatality figures in comparison to UK, Norway & Sweden.

### **4. Update Speed Limit Review**

Cllr. Matt Doran welcomed Joe Scully to the meeting. He gave a presentation outlining the update on the Speed Limit review.

Kilkenny County Council to

- prepare public consultation maps
- commence speed limit review public consultation process in April 2022

- roads department to assess public speed limit change submissions/objections
- Municipal District Elected Members to consider report of public submissions/objections at June Municipal District meetings
- Prepare draft B speed limit bye-laws and maps in July 2022
- Proposed adoption of speed limit changes at September 2022 meeting of Kilkenny County Council

## 5. Water Capital Projects

Seamus Kavanagh presented on the Water Capital projects. Kilkenny County Council manages 23 public drinking water supplies and 36 public waste water treatment schemes on behalf of Irish Water. This serves 67,500 customers, using 28.5 million litres of water a day approximately, at a cost of €9.2m.

Mains replacement 2022:

- Knocktopher Village - 1,250m (in progress)
- Knockanore Cross to Norelands WTP + rising main to Rathduff Reservoir- 4,600m
- Carrickmourne, Thomastown - 3,250m
- Slieverue Village - 1,050m
- Dublin Rd, Thomastown - 750m
- Michael St, Kilkenny - 450m  
Design
- Norelands Bridge (Knocklynon Bridge) circa 85m.

Town and Village Growth Programme:

- Bennettsbridge was selected in Kilkenny for a full waste water upgrade as part of the plan. The amount committed for Kilkenny under the programme is €5m and the Council are working with Irish Water to ensure the project is delivered on time.

Cllr. Matt Doran thanked Seamus Kavanagh for the details. Cllr. Pat Dunphy queried how are we going to get around leakage issue, on a regular basis around the county. Some of those roads on the programme and Irish Water do not appear to be delivering.

Seamus Kavanagh advised the list of roads in presentation are the worst in Kilkenny at the moment. We will look at areas with the Area Engineers. There is a road opening process where the road has to be resurfaced....

## 6. Update on Flood Schemes Graiguenamanagh/Tinnahinch

Time Frame for Project:

		Completed By:
• Stage 1	Scheme Development and Preliminary Design	Q3 2022
• Stage 2	Planning and Public Exhibition	Q3 2023
• Stage 3	Detailed Design, Confirmation and Tender	Q1 2024

- Stage 4 Construction Supervision Q1 2026
- Stage 5 Handover of Works Q2 2027
- Public Information Day to be carried out in coming weeks on potential options.
- Respond to FI request on Site Investigations application
- Draft EIAR & Final Report and Option to be prepared.
- Presentation of Final Report to Councillors Sept 2022
- Approval to Proceed to Stage II (preparation of Planning application to an Bord Pleanala).

## **Ballyhale**

Time Frame for Project:

- |           |   | Completed By: |
|-----------|---|---------------|
| • Stage 1 | Scheme Development and Preliminary Design | Q2 2022       |
| • Stage 2 | Planning and Public Exhibition            | Q2 2023       |
| • Stage 3 | Detailed Design, Confirmation and Tender  | Q2 2024       |
| • Stage 4 | Construction Supervision                  | Q4 2025       |
| • Stage 5 | Handover of Works                         | Q4 2026       |
- Final Report & Draft EIAR Under review

## **Next Steps**

- Commence Stage II Planning & Public Exhibition.
- Complete EIAR based on preferred Option
- Draft EIAR & Final Report and Option to be prepared.
- Complete Landowner Negotiations & CPO
- Preparation & Submission of Planning application to An Bord Pleanala

Cllr. Thomas Breathnach asked is there a requirement for the reports to be adopted by the Councillors?

Joe Scully confirmed there is not a requirement, that the adjudicating bord is An Bord Pleanala.

## **7. Broadband Rollout**

Tim Butler gave an update 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 carried out at South Glenmore, Piltown, north of the county and the Carlow side and all infrastructure should be done in these areas by year end.

Cllr T Breathnach asked if Broadband Ireland could be invited back again and noted it is important to keep this on the agenda.

Cllr P Dunphy raised the issue that the broadband in the areas of Mooncoin for example is very weak, most of those villages are worst served – advised that this was an issue for Eir.

Gerard Ferris advised on the N78 he has fibre to his house but the town itself doesn't seem to have coverage, if that could be extended.

#### **8. Meeting schedule 2022**

Cllr. Doran discussed the meeting schedule for 2022, meetings on Friday afternoons currently, would

a different day suit? Thursday afternoons was offered as an alternative and agreed for the rest of the year, dates as follows:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2022 at 3.00 pm
- 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2022 at 3.00pm
- 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2022 at 3.00pm

#### **9. AOB**

No other business.

The next meeting was set for Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022.

**This concluded the meeting**