

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Transportation Policy / Mobility
Management and Water Services held on Thursday 7th December, 2023**

Present: Cllr. Matt Doran (Chairman).

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, Barry Lynch, Ella Dunphy, Jim Mulhall, Seán Ó hArgáin, Eileen Ryan, Jim Kehoe, Ger Mooney.

In Attendance: Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services; Mr. Seamus Kavanagh, Senior Engineer; Lorraine McGuire, Staff Officer, Claire Buckley, Administrative Officer, Seamus Foley, Snr. Executive Engineer, Road Design Office.

Apologies: Cllr. Pat O'Neill, Cllr, Michael Delaney.

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising

Chairman Cllr. Matt Doran opened the meeting by welcoming Jim Kehoe as a member of SPC2.

The minutes of SPC2 meeting held on 12th October, 2023 were adopted.
Proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty and seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach.

2. Road Safety Plan

Review of Kilkenny Road Safety Plan 2015 -2020

Seamus Foley presented to the meeting in relation to the aims and objectives of the Road Safety Plan 2015 -2020 and detailing the what was achieved during the term of the plan.

There were contributions from Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Eileen Ryan and Seán Ó hArgáin in relation to the dangers for vulnerable road users and shared responsibility of cyclists, pedestrians and motorists in relation to road safety particularly on the Ring Road. Lighting issues on N29 at Belview Port and on Kilkenny Ring Road were also raised.

Seamus Kavanagh noted that funding has been secured from TII to review the Clifton Scannell report on the ring road active travel measures. This would include measures such as crossing points for pedestrians and cyclists.

In relation to safe cycling there is a need for education and increased signage to alert drivers that there may be cyclists on the road. The NTA's Cycle Design Manual gives guidance on this. Seamus Kavanagh suggested that this SPC might meet to decide on the best placement of signage.

Cllr. Deirdre Cullen noted the positive effects of the low cost safety schemes and requested that the Council seek increased funding in 2024 to progress more schemes.

National & Local Collision Stats & Trends

Lorraine McGuire gave a presentation on the National and Local road accident and fatality statistics.

Contributions from Cllrs. Deirdre Cullen & Fidelis Doherty and Seán Ó hArgáin who noted the need to focus on education in relation to road safety and to target young drivers early.

They noted also the need for the promotion and provision of hi-vis jackets for pedestrians and e-scooter users.

Presentation of Road Safety Plan 2022 - 2030 identifying key actions

Tim Butler presented the Road Safety Plan 2022 -2030 identifying Kilkenny County Council's actions and targets in line with the Government's Road Safety Strategy.

Jim Mulhall noted, in relation to driver behaviour, the effectiveness of flashing signs on approach to villages.

Eileen Ryan enquired about the city bus entering housing estates where a turning area could be facilitated. Tim confirmed this is not a possibility but there are plans to increase the no. of bus routes.

Seán Ó hArgáin noted that discrepancies can arise when driving, between speed limits on the road and technology e.g. Google Maps. Speed limits are updated through RMO so should be correct if the technology/app is kept updated.

3. Roads Overview 2023

Seamus Kavanagh presented in relation to the works carried out under the Roadworks Scheme in 2023 and the grant monies received.

Cllr. Matt Doran commended Seamus and the Council on the work completed.

Seán Ó hArgáin noted in particular the value added by the Pococke Cycling Route for children cycling to school.

4. AOB

With local elections to be held in 2024, the following two meetings were proposed.

Thursday 22nd February, 2024

Thursday 9th May, 2024.

This concluded the meeting.