

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Transportation Policy / Mobility
Management and Water Services held on Thursday 9th May 2024**

Present: Cllr. Matt Doran (Chairman).

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Fidelis Doherty, Michael Delaney, Jim Kehoe, Ger Mooney

In Attendance: Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services; Mr. Seamus Kavanagh, Senior Engineer; Claire Buckley Administrative Officer, Colette Power A/Staff Officer, David O’Brien A/Senior Executive Engineer.

Apologies: Eileen Ryan, Ella Dunphy, Cllr Pat O’ Neill, Barry Lynch, Jim Mulhall.

1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising

Chairman Cllr. Matt Doran informed this is his final SPC2 meeting as he is retiring.

Seamus Kavanagh confirmed a query which arose from the previous meeting with regard to Disability Parking Bays and confirmed 186 in total in the Municipal Districts.

The minutes of SPC2 meeting held on 22nd February 2024 were adopted.

Proposed by Cllr. Michael Delaney and seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach.

2. Speed Limits

Tim Butler presented the Speed Limit Review on all roads. The review took place on all roads with considerable consideration of a 30km/ph speed limit in urban areas. No change to take place on Motorways, National Primary and Regional roads. National Secondary to reduce to 80km/ph, Local roads 60km/ph & Urban roads to 30km/ph.

Kilkenny County Council will look for funding to erect signage on all roads in the county to be completed by end November 2024. Workshops will be arranged and engineers will be in attendance.

- Contributions were made by Cllr Fidelis Doherty & Cllr Deirdre Cullen who welcomed this change in speed limits. Concerns was raised in relation to a call for more ramps and the timeline of signage erection is an issue with so many roads deaths happening.
- Cllr Tomás Breathnach and Ger Mooney highlighted the issue with regard GDPR and the restriction of access to statistical information that is available to LA's on road accidents in a community.
- Tim Butler explained that the timing of the erection of signage will take until November 2024 due to procurement process. In relation to the GDPR issue, LA's have no access to this information, the Gardai have the access. LA's are hoping by the end of the year the Department of Transport/RSA will allow access to map and location in local areas with regard to road accidents.

3. Road Safety - Engineering

Seamus Kavanagh presented in relation to the ongoing and planned capital works in Kilkenny. He confirmed the following minor schemes are completed with TII funding N76 Callan Road Realignment, N77 Ballyragget to Ballynaslee (Phase 1), N24 Tower Road which opened on 1st May, N24 Carrick Road has planning permission received and we are now progressing the tender documents. The N77 Ballyragget Village to Balynaslee phase 2 is currently at construction stage.

- Contributions were made by Cllr Pat Dunphy with regard to more money been spent on local roads due to flooding holes developing in areas with huge amounts of water. In relation to the speed survey could this be done faster and can the results be made public?
- Cllr. Fidelis Doherty queried the LIS allocation and the herd numbers.
- Seamus Kavanagh confirmed there is €587K allocated to drainage schemes for 2024 for taking floods off roads and this all leads into road safety. He also confirmed the herd number requirement for LIS schemes is reduced to one.

4. Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) Projects South Kilkenny

David O'Brien presented the schemes and outlined what stages the projects were at with regard to The South – North Access Road & Greenway Connectivity, N29 Port Road and the Potential future projects including two river crossings (Relief roads)

- Contributions from Cllr Fidelis Doherty explained the long-standing issue with parking in Ferrybank at the boy's school. Is there a possibility that car parking could be made available in the empty shopping centre?
- Cllr Pat Dunphy explained he had met with residents in relation to the Port Road off the IDA site and would the council be open to meeting with the residents on this matter.

- Cllr. Tomás Breathnach spoke with regard to Part 8 Link Road (Abbey Road & Belmont) is it at the design stage and would there be a public information?

David contributed that parking would be examined in context of the sustainable transport links and that all projects will go through the public consultation process.

5. AOB

- Cllr. Tomás Breathnach queried the guidance for road side parking for traders and lorries. Seamus Kavanagh confirmed he will bring this up at the next Road Maintenance Meeting and will revert back to this query.

As this was Cllr Matt Doran's final SPC meeting all the Councillors and attendees of the meeting expressed their sincere thanks to Matt for chairing this meeting over the last 15 years and wished him a very happy and healthy retirement.

Matt thanked all the SPC members who attended the meeting over the last number of years and wished each and every member best wishes for the future.

This meeting concluded and the next SPC meeting will be confirmed once the new members of Council will be elected.