

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Transportation Policy / Mobility
Management and Infrastructure held on Friday 14th March 2025**

Present: Cllr. Deirdre Cullen (Chairperson).
Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr Joe Sheridan, Cllr Maurice Shortall,
Mr Brendan Hickey, Mr Michael Duggan, Ms Mary
Brennan.

In Attendance: Ms Mary Mullholland - Director of Services, Mr Seamus
Kavanagh - Senior Engineer Roads, Ms Claire Buckley -
Roads & Ms Elise O'Hara - Roads.

Apologies: Cllr, Michael Delaney, Ms Eileen Ryan

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, 13th December 2024 were adopted, proposed by Cllr Maurice Shortall and seconded by Cllr Joe Sheridan.

2. Roadworks Scheme

Seamus Kavanagh gave a presentation around the road grants including the National Allocation and the Non-National Roads Programme.

There were contributions from Brendan Hickey, Cllr Joe Sheridan, Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr Pat Dunphy, Mary Brennan and Cllr Michael Delaney. Clarification was sought in relation to how the money is allocated. Seamus Kavanagh discussed the allocations process including the selection process of roads by Engineers.

Cllr Joe Sheridan spoke about the Community Involvement Scheme and questioned if more funding will be secured in the future. Callan Thomastown area was mentioned, noting completion of two to three projects a year, with a waiting list of thirty-five. Cllr Deirdre Cullen noted that the scheme currently operates on a first come first served basis. Cllr Cullen asked if we have a costing for the maintenance of lanes while on waiting lists. The impact heavy machinery, building and climate on lanes was discussed. The possibility of taking money from Restoration Improvement was spoken about, however, Seamus Kavanagh said this is no longer an option.

Cllr Pat Dunphy expressed the need for more money from the Government. Cllr Cullen noted that Kilkenny County Council have written to the Department in relation to this and the response could be delayed due to the change in government. The impact of Climate on roads was discussed to be used as leverage for increased budget. Lobbying was discussed, and Cllr Pat Dunphy expressed the need for the matter to be discussed at the quarterly meeting with TD's.

Mary Brennan discussed the challenges for pedestrians and cyclists on Greens Bridge and asked Seamus Kavanagh if there were plans to resolve this while maintaining its current historic façade. Seamus Kavanagh responded that there is a plan, and referred to the pedestrian bridge in Castlecomer as an example of what can be done.

Cllr Michael Delaney questioned if there is current data on the filling of potholes, suggesting this may help the narrative for further funding on the Community Involvement Scheme. Seamus Kavanagh said this data is difficult to calculate as many are filled on an adhoc basis. Seamus Kavanagh discussed the rising costs of fuel, the trial of HVO in the yard (28c dearer than diesel) and electric costs, and that while the budget has risen, so have costs.

3. Capital Projects

Seamus Kavanagh gave a presentation on the Capital Projects for Kilkenny in 2025.

Mary Brennan asked how much interaction Kilkenny County Council have with the Department of Transport and noted the importance making the roads safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Seamus Kavanagh said that this is the plan, speaking about the Ring Road in particular, noting that with development in the business park the improvement of active travel will be essential. Different concepts were discussed such as an overpass, underpass and refuge islands. It was noted Kilkenny got €3 million in Active Travel funding with Kilkenny City receiving €2.5 million of this allocation.

Cllr Pat Dunphy spoke about the need to keep the pressure on the N24/N25, and that the N25 is one of the most dangerous roads in the county. Mary Mullholland noted that this years allocation was still under consideration and that it will be funded, however, the department have not specified when. Mary said that with a project this big it is not possible to move forward without funding. Mary Mullholland spoke about the Ring Road and the difficulty in retrospectively addressing the issues of active travel. Cllr Dunphy asked if TD's should be involved with monthly meetings to keep the pressure on. The possibility of reaching out to other chairs of SPC's effected was discussed. It was decided Mary Mullholland would reach out to Oireachtas.

4. AOB

Mary Mullholland discussed upcoming SPC members training which would hopefully go ahead in May. The meeting will go through the purpose of the SPC, how it works and what we want to achieve.

Cllr Pat Dunphy discussed the Kilkenny Bus Service and if there was an allocation for improved signage/timetables and the possibility of more bus stops throughout the county. Seamus Kavanagh spoke about working with the NTA last year on rural bus stops. Cllr Deirdre Cullen mentioned the need for a new bus stop in Ballyhale. Mary Brennan discussed the lack of parking around bus stops. Suggestions were made relating to where in Kilkenny stops should be located/relocated. Seamus Kavanagh informed all that €500,000 active travel allocation for bus stops was available.

It was decided as an SPC that 3 routes should be highlighted for discussion with the NTA, ensuring they are from all over the county.

Cllr Deirdre Cullen noted the dates for the next three SPC meetings for 2025, which are due to take place Friday 6th June at 11 a.m., Friday 5th September at 11 a.m. and Friday 5th December at 11 a.m.

Cllr Deirdre Cullen closed the meeting with thanks to those in attendance.

This concluded the meeting.