

**MINUTES OF TRANSPORTATION
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday 04 February 2016

Present:

Councillor Darren Scully, Cathaoirleach
Councillor Réada Cronin
Councillor John McGinley
Councillor Seamie Moore
Councillor Anne Breen
Councillor Mark Dalton
Jimmy Earle (Rural Transport)
Peter Kenny (Chambers Ireland)
Cormac Browne (Irish Farmers' Association)

Also Present:

Niall Morrissey, Director of Service
Ger Duff, Acting Senior Executive Officer
James Doyle, Senior Staff Officer
Declan Keogh, Road Safety Officer
John Coppinger, Senior Engineer
Ronan Linnane, Executive Engineer

Apologies:

Councillor Joe Neville
Councillor Paul Ward
Sean Lawler (Road Haulage)

Agenda

Item 1 - Introduction

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee.

Item 2 – Vote of Sympathy

The Committee passed a vote of sympathy and observed a minutes' silence on the passing of Eileen Nolan, Senior Staff Officer, Chief Executive's Office. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

Item 3 – Minutes

On the proposal of Councillor Moore and seconded by Councillor Breen the Minutes of the Meeting of 4th November 2015 were approved and taken as read.

Item 4 – Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Item 5 – Road Safety

The Road Safety Officer advised the Meeting that the Road Safety Working Group had met that morning and that it's meetings have been scheduled for the mornings of the same dates as the Strategic Policy Committee meetings with the Road Safety Officer then providing a briefing to the Committee at it's meeting in the afternoon. He indicated that there had been nine fatalities in six road accidents in the county in 2015 ie four fatalities in one accident near Athy and one fatality in each of five accidents at Kildangan, Monasterevin, Kill, Nurney and Newbridge. He advised that An Garda Siochana is currently focussing on the issues of seatbelt wearing, speeding and mobile phone usage. He indicated that a schools road safety roadshow is scheduled for 10th March 2016 at Punchestown Racecourse Event Centre and that it is proposed to arrange an adult road safety roadshow at the same venue on the evening of the 10th.

Item 6 – Pay Parking Policy

The Director of Service presented the Draft County Parking Policy to the Meeting and advised that the power to adopt Parking Bye Laws rests with the Municipal Districts. However, he recommended that the Committee give serious consideration to the proposed policy which, if agreed, will be submitted to the Corporate Policy Group and, if approved, to Full Council.

Following a lengthy and detailed debate about the pros and cons of having a County Parking Policy, it was agreed that the draft policy be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Item 7 – Public Lighting Policy

Ronan Linnane, Executive Engineer, Public Lighting Unit presented the proposed policy to the Meeting and explained its contents. He indicated that a survey undertaken in 2014 revealed that there are 22,000 public lights in the county and determined the location, condition and energy usage of each light. There is a mixture of lights which has accumulated over forty years. Sodium lights are currently being phased out and are being replaced by LED lights. There will be a lighting reassessment on downgraded roads. He emphasised that lighting poles are not designed to support hanging baskets.

John Coppinger, Senior Engineer advised the Meeting that the public lighting system had been inherited from the ESB and is half urban, half rural. There is a national and international requirement to conserve energy. A further 7,000 to 7,500 lights remain to be taken in charge and will cost an extra € 1,100,000 approximately annually. There will be an improved specification and a stricter policy. The system will be expensive and funding will have to come from somewhere. A matrix is provided in the proposed policy to objectively determine where public lights should/should not be located.

A discussion followed and the main issues were discussed.

The Cathaoirleach brought the long discussion to a conclusion and advised that this item would remain on the Agenda for agreement/adoption at the next Committee meeting.

Item 8 – Rural Transport

Jimmy Earle briefed the Meeting as follows –

- twenty five percent of routes must go for re-tender this year;
- had to curtail route to Carlow due to lack of usage;
- will operate a route experimentally for six weeks to determine whether or not it is viable;
- if a route is required then send proposals for consideration and
- 10,800 trips were undertaken and 106,500 passengers were carried in 2015 of whom twenty eight percent held a Travel Pass.

Item 9 – Resurfacing of M4 Motorway

The Director of Service confirmed that Transport Infrastructure Ireland would undertake resurfacing if it had funding. However, he considers this issue to be a Municipal District issue. If a house was constructed after the motorway opened then there is no case for seeking noise reduction.

The Director of Service confirmed that the Council is aware of the noise issue but requires funding to progress it.

Item 10 – Standing Orders

The Draft Standing Orders for the Strategic Policy Committee had been circulated to the Members prior to the Meeting and the Committee agreed to remove Rule 6 ie Any Other Business and to submit the amended Draft Standing Orders to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration.

Item 11 – Work Programme

The Committee considered the Draft Work Programme presented to the Meeting by the Director of Service and provisionally agreed that the following should be included viz.

- 1/ Countywide Parking Policy;
- 2/ Section 26 Fire Service Plan;
- 3/ Roadside Memorials and Garden;
- 4/ Review the Policy on the Naming of Roundabouts;
- 5/ Public Lighting Policy;
- 6/ Invitation to Transport Infrastructure Ireland to make a presentation to the Committee;
- 7/ Road Safety and Rural Transport to be Standing Items on the Agenda.

Item 12 – Note to Meeting

The Director of Service advised the Meeting that Kildare County Council had received confirmation that construction of the M7 Widening, Osberstown Interchange and Sallins By Pass Project will be effected under a single contract. Tenders will be sought and a contract will be awarded in March/April 2017 and the project will be completed in 2019.

Item 13 - Conclusion

The Cathaoirleach thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution and the Meeting then concluded.

The next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 5th May 2016.