

**MINUTES OF TRANSPORTATION
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday 05 May 2016

Present:

Councillor Darren Scully, Cathaoirleach

Councillor John McGinley

Councillor Anne Breen

Councillor Mark Dalton

Councillor Joe Neville

Councillor Paul Ward

Jimmy Earle (Rural Transport)

Peter Kenny (Chambers Ireland)

Also Present:

Niall Morrissey, Director of Service

Evelyn Wright, Senior Executive Officer

John Coppinger, Senior Engineer

Ronan Linnane, Executive Engineer

Anne Byrne, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies:

Sean Lawler (Road Haulage)

Councillor Réada Cronin

Councillor Seamie Moore

Cormac Browne (Irish Farmers' Association)

Declan Keogh, Road Safety Officer

Agenda

Item 1 - Introduction

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee and welcomed Evelyn Wright to the meeting and to Kildare County

Council in her role as Senior Executive Officer (SEO) in the Roads Transportation & Public Safety Department.

Item 3 – Minutes

On the proposal of Councillor McGinley, seconded by Councillor Ward, the Minutes of the Meeting of 04 February 2016 were approved and taken as read.

Item 4 – Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Item 5 – Road Safety

The SEO provided an update to the meeting from the Road Safety Officer (RSO). in his absence in regard to the “Safer Roads” event on 10 April at the Punchestown Centre. A summary of the report is attached.

The Members wished to compliment Declan Keogh, RSO, on the great effort he put into the event in April and wanted it noted that he did a first class job and that he gives a great lead to other Road Safety Officers.

It was suggested that it would be advisable to put more emphasis on safe cycling in the County so that accident statistics in that area of road use will not rise.

The issue of salary costs to KCC was raised and whether any financial contribution to the salary of the RSO by any organisation or in particular the Road Safety Authority. The Director of Service (DOS) advised that the Road Safety Authority is not making a contribution to salary costs to KCC or any other RSO salaries nationally.

The Cathaoirleach asked that a letter be sent to the RSA requesting funding for the RSO’s salary.

Item 6 – Pay Parking Policy

The DOS presented the Draft County Parking Policy to the members and explained that it had been reviewed and commented on by the 5 Municipal Districts. The key issues are charges and hours of enforcement, which are not uniform throughout the County. He advised that the document is a Framework and in the long term, the aim would be to have uniformity of charges and hours of enforcement.

The members agreed to send the Draft Policy forward for approval of full Council, this was proposed by Cllr. McGinley and seconded by Cllr. Ward.

Item 7 – Public Lighting Policy

Ronan Linnane, Executive Engineer, Public Lighting Unit updated the SPC on the Policy and advised that its purpose is as a Policy & Planning Guidance document and outlined the criteria for all types of public lighting in the County.

The subject of operational response times was raised and the members were informed that the plan for responses in the future is as follows: (1) emergency fault there would be no delay, (2) a standard fault would take 5 days and a (3) traffic route lighting fault would be 10 days.

The subject of housing estates with no public lighting was raised and a query was raised as to how to proceed towards getting lighting installed. The DOS explained that funding would have to be sourced and one option was from Development Levies.

J. Coppinger, S.E. advised that the procedure to get public lighting into such estates is to contact the Engineer in the Public Lighting Unit. He suggested that the Councillors could direct some of their Discretionary Funding towards the new lights. When the Public Lighting Unit becomes aware of an estate in need of lighting, an assessment will be carried out and if it is high priority, it will be addressed. He proposed that the Committee would bring the policy to full Council for implementation.

The DOS advised the meeting that Co. Kildare had made very good progress with regard to the development of an inventory for public lighting. Discussion took place regarding running costs and energy saving measures i.e., e.g. undergrounding of cables and possibly turning off units in spaces at low usage intervals. J.C. advised that there are safety risks involved and noted that while energy saving measures would result in saving money, the County's lighting stock is anticipated to increase and we continue to manage costs.

The members agreed to put the Policy forward for approval by full Council – proposed by Cllr. McGinley and seconded by Cllr. Dalton.

Item 8 – Rural Transport

Jimmy Earle updated the meeting and spoke about the need for more bus shelters throughout the County especially in rural areas – cost estimates were in the region of €20,000 to provide rural shelters. The members discussed issues surrounding public transport and in particular the need for more bus shelters in the County. The SE advised the members that most shelters are provided by companies such as Bus Eireann and Adshell and that the Council does not build shelters.

The SEO explained that the National Transportation Authority proposes to standardise bus stop signs and the provision of bus shelters nationally.

The SE advised that there are safety issues with regard to buses stopping along rural roads. The DOS suggested raising this at the next Rural Transport Board Meeting. The bus shelter item is to be kept on the next Agenda.

J.E. informed the members that there is illegal parking on the yellow lines on the bridge in Rathangan and the Director undertook to have this issue examined. The Chair enquired whether regulations could be put in place to allow buses to use the Caragh bridge which currently has a 3.5 ton limit. The S.E. advised that no exceptions can be made to the weight restriction for safety reasons, and referred to a technical report on the Caragh bridge confirming same.

Item 9 – Sharing of Ducting Infrastructure

The SEO circulated an information document on this topic. The meeting was advised of the need for the development of a database of ducting infrastructure in Co. Kildare. With regard to a proposal to share/make available existing ducting infrastructure, in the ownership of the Council, a phased approach is proposed as follows

- Company approach and advise of request for use of our services
- Details, surveys, drawings confirming location of services to be provided

- KCC to enter into Lease Agreement with the applicant, with the Council maintaining control of the infrastructure and setting appropriate fees.

The Members were requested to examine the proposal and provide comments and advice.

Item 10

The Members were provided with a copy of the Roads and Transportation briefing to the Full Council Meeting, held on April 25th. The DOS advised that the briefing provides a summary of projects and work in progress in the Department and that these briefings would be provided on an ongoing basis to the SPC for information purposes.

Item 11 - Conclusion

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

The next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 01 September 2016.

Report from Road Safety Officer, Declan Keogh to meeting on 05 May 2016.

Kildare County Council launched a road safety exhibition on Sunday 10th of April called 'Safer Roads' at the Punchestown Event Centre. This event was a public event and free to attend. 'Safer Roads' involved all aspects of road safety education, awareness and promotion.

Five keynote speakers delivered presentations in the auditorium while 32 exhibitors from commercial bodies and national bodies and authorities attended. 1,842 people registered through the doors on the day while 750 people registered to attend online or via text.

'Safer Roads' included the following aspects of road safety:

- Tyre Safety and basic car maintenance
- A focus on YMD: Young Male Drivers
Lose the Attitude! - A focus on driver behaviour and changing attitudes

- Agricultural drivers and towing trailers
- Adult and older drivers

Anna May McHugh, Director of the National Ploughing Association, Jake Byrne, Motorsport Ireland's 'Young Driver of the Year', Eamon Timmins, CEO of Age Action and Oliver Moyles, bereaved father of Kaye Moyles all supported and endorsed the event.

Richard Alcorn, a YMD Young Male Driver from County Donegal who was involved and survived a fatal collision in County Donegal was a guest speaker and spoke about his collision and how it has left him paralysed and wheelchair bound for life.

Tony Kelly, the first forensic collision investigator of An Garda Síochána gave an insight into forensic collision investigations. The RSA and An Garda Síochána road safety units from Dublin Castle were very prominent at the event.

CoCo TV, the producers of RTÉ's CrimeCall informed the Road Safety Officer that a segment from the exhibition and a piece from the Forensic Collision Investigation was used on the recent CrimeCall programme.

The event was also featured on Irish TV's Kildare County matters programme.

The 'Safer Roads event was for road users of all types and ages and the RSO has indicated that a similar show should be provided every year and that it could be run as a two-day event, the first day on a Sunday for the public and the second day for school students.