

MINUTES OF TRANSPORTATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 03 2016

Present:

Councillor Darren Scully, Cathaoirleach

Councillor Mark Dalton

Councillor Seamus Moore

Councillor John Mc Ginley

Councillor Réada Cronin

Councillor Anne Breen

Peter Kenny (Chambers Ireland)

Also Present:

Niall Morrissey, Director of Service

Evelyn Wright, Senior Executive Officer

Apologies:

Jimmy Earle (Rural Transport)

Declan Keogh, Road Safety Officer

Agenda

Item 1 - Introduction

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

Item 2 – Minutes

No matters arising from previous minutes which were proposed by Cllr. Cronin and seconded by P. Kenny.

Item 3 – Update from the Director of Services

Niall Morrissey (NM) provided an update on the Naas Transportation Steering Group and associated Working Groups on signage, roundabouts and parking. Survey work

is now completed on signs in place in the town and preparatory work for a tender is underway to identify and remove signs which fall into the category of redundant, outdated, unnecessary and which are not directional or statutory signs. Parks Department is preparing to issue a tender for the landscaping of roundabouts. Cllr Cronin reminded meeting of Irish language requirement. NM informed SPC of a recent complaint from An Coimisinéir Teanga regarding failure to comply with the statutory requirements on the use of Irish on signs in Naas and that KCC had a legal requirement to ensure compliance. Cllr. Moore discussed naming protocol on roundabouts – the use of townland names and his recommendation that the names of team members from the Maguire Cup team (1927/1928) be considered. A discussion on roundabouts, landscaping, naming and signage took place and the impression that roundabouts create on entering a town. A discussion on parking and associated charges in towns in the County also took place.

Cathaoirleach and NM agreed to consider the policy on naming of housing estates, bridges, roads, laneways and roundabouts in consultation with Planning Department and that this should be included on work programme for SPC.

Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF)

NM also updated the SPC on the submission for funding under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF). It is anticipated that an announcement on funding will be made by Department of Housing in December 2016. Cllr. Dalton queried why Athy was not included in the submission and NM advised that the objective of LIHAF is to release lands for housing development and that housing development in Athy was not constrained by lack of roads infrastructure. The positive impact of the completion of the proposed Athy Distributor Route was referred to and securing funding was a priority for KCC.

Rural Transport and Bus Shelters

NM referred to proposal to provide up to two bus shelters in rural locations in each Municipal District per year using LPT funding. Local Link has identified suitable locations based on the numbers using the services in the most exposed areas. The decision on locations would be a matter for each Municipal District. The provision of and use of private bus shelters was discussed. Cllr. Moore referred to advertising

on a bus shelter in Poplar Square in Naas and to the negative visibility on local businesses. Following a broad discussion on bus shelters provided by public and private entities, advertising and control of same, and the role of the National Transportation Authority (NTA), the SPC was not in agreement on bus shelters being used for advertising. NM advised that a meeting with the NTA was scheduled to take place on 08/11/2016, and the issue of bus shelters and their provision and funding, would be discussed.

Speed Ramps

NM informed the SPC that the Athy Municipal District had requested the SPC to consider a policy on the provision of traffic calming to include speed ramps in housing estates and on roads. The impact of traffic calming measures was discussed and in particular the impact on emergency vehicles and response times. It was agreed that this issue will be included on the Programme of Work and research carried out in the UK and other EU countries should be examined. NM advised that the National Road Design Office (Kildare) was examining this issue.

Item 4 - Shared Space

Cllr. Scully raised the concept of 'shared space' and proposed that it be included on the SPC Programme of Work. It was agreed that information on the concept would be provided to the SPC at the next meeting.

Item 5 – Report from the Road Safety Officer

A copy of 'Road Safety News' was circulated to the meeting attendees with updates on initiatives underway in Kildare, in particular the use of 'go-pro' cameras by school wardens.

The visibility of cyclists on roads was discussed and NM advised on the objective to get the Cycle Forum re-established and include it in the work programme of the SPC.

Item 6 - Conclusion

The Cathaoirleach thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions. The 2017 schedule of SPC Meetings has not yet been finalised and Members of the SPC would be notified shortly.