

**MINUTES OF TRANSPORTATION
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

September 01 2016

Present:

Councillor Darren Scully, Cathaoirleach

Councillor Mark Dalton

Councillor Joe Neville

Councillor Paul Ward

Councillor Réada Cronin

Jimmy Earle (Rural Transport)

Peter Kenny (Chambers Ireland)

Also Present:

Niall Morrissey, Director of Service

Evelyn Wright, Senior Executive Officer

Declan Keogh, Road Safety Officer

Apologies:

Sean Lawler (Road Haulage)

Councillor John McGinley

Councillor Anne Breen

Councillor Seamie Moore

Cormac Browne (Irish Farmers' Association)

Agenda

Item 1 - Introduction

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

Item 2 – Minutes

Matters arising from previous minutes. J Earle (Rural Transport) noted that the minutes stated that the cost of the provision of a bus shelter was approximately €20,000 and he advised that his information was that a cost of circa €5,000-€6,000 was more realistic.

The Minutes of the Meeting of 05 May 2016 were then approved and taken as read.

Item 3 – Update from the Director of Services

Niall Morrissey advised that a County Parking Policy had been adopted by Kildare County Council and thanked the SPC for the work and input to the Policy. It is intended that the policy will be used as a framework for parking.

A County Public Lighting Policy was also adopted by Kildare County Council, and he thanked the SPC for its work. Work is underway on quantifying energy usage and a database for the County is being finalised. A national replacement policy is under development and funding of same remains to be clarified.

The Athy Municipal District requested that the SPC consider rural lighting and it was confirmed by Cllr. Dalton that this issue would be requested to be placed on the SPC work programme.

Item 4 – Sharing of Ducting Infrastructure

E Wright advised that KCC was awaiting confirmation from Transport Infrastructure Ireland on their national charging structure, prior to the Council completing lease agreements with service providers to ensure consistency in charging structures. An update will be provided at the November SPC meeting.

Item 5 – Rural Transport and Bus Shelters

N. Morrissey discussed a proposal to provide up to two bus shelters in rural locations in each Municipal District per year using LPT funding. J. Earle advised that Local Link would assist in the identification of the most suitable locations based on the numbers using the services in the most exposed areas. It was agreed to consult with Local Link to seek views on the optimum locations for such shelters.

Cllr. Neville commented on the different types of bus shelters in rural areas in Northern Ireland. It was agreed that this proposal would be placed on the October Agenda of each Municipal District. Clarification would be required on the definition of 'rural' and a mechanism for the Members to generate a list of priority locations.

J. Earle advised that a pilot transportation service was being provided from Rathangan to Newbridge and Naas in association with the Department of Social Protection. This pilot is to facilitate people attending courses etc and the SPC will be updated on how this is progressing.

Cllr. Cronin discussed raising awareness of rural transport, if digital media is used to promote it, who is eligible to use it and how the Members might support and assist. J Earle advised that the National Transportation Authority has a communication section for promotion work on the scheme. Rural Transport also has produced leaflets and timetables of the services provided and had done some leaflet drops but these are expensive and not very productive.

The use of KCC's web site/social media was discussed and the need for continual updating of same.

Item 6 – Road Safety

The Road Safety Officer, Declan Keogh (DK), gave an update on road safety in general, number of accidents, speeding and other offences including failure to wear seatbelts, drink driving. It was noted that the Garda Traffic Corps had lost staff (3) and the SPC agreed to write to the Joint Policing Committee to express concerns about the lost of resources at the Garda Traffic Corps.

The letter from the Road Safety Authority was acknowledged and DK advised on funding and how Kildare uses its resources. The meeting was advised that the Road Safety Plan was currently being updated.

The issue of speeding was discussed including the use of speed cameras for enforcement on the ongoing M7/Naas roadworks. Niall Morrissey (NM) advised that the cameras were being trialled on the M7 and that the signage in place indicated

that 'average road speed' was being recorded, but not individual registration numbers of vehicles.

P. Kenny referred to road safety in the context of school children cycling and queried whether cycling clubs were included in the Road Safety Plan. The tragic recent death of a school boy cycling in Co. Westmeath was noted.

Cllr. Scully discussed education on safety for children on bicycles and considered that pedestrian, cyclists and motorists all have a part to play with regard to road safety, including the use of appropriate high visibility clothing, particularly at night. DK advised that there were 101 primary schools in Kildare with in excess of 3,000 students and that interaction with students, teachers was ongoing.

DK advised that an upcoming Road Safety Conference was scheduled to take place on October 15th, with the focus on school wardens. Reference was made to the use of body cameras in the context of drivers who refuse to slow down and drive through pedestrian crossings.

DK advised that 16 schools in Kildare were provided with training in 2016 with some sponsorship from RSA. Cllr. Ward highlighted the issue of groups of cyclists particularly at weekends on roadways and D Keogh advised that they are obliged to notify the Gardai if there are cycle events taking place. The need for improved awareness and co-ordination was noted by the SPC.

Cllr. Scully advised on his interaction with the Naas Cycle Club who claimed that it was safer to cycle as a group rather than as individuals. D Keogh advised that education and awareness is ongoing and that information on charity cycle events and road safety is available.

N. Morrissey referred to the Council's Cycling Officer and the need for co-ordination with the Road Safety Officer.

Cllr. Cronin referred to driver speed, response time and awareness and the impact on road safety. The proper use and knowledge of how to use roundabouts was also

discussed and the benefit of more education and awareness campaigns from the perspective of the cyclist and not the motorist.

Cllr. Scully queried the revenue stream from Go Safe/Speed Vans and their placement/locations. D Keogh clarified that they are primarily used at collision zones.

Item 7 – Roadside Memorials

A proposal on roadside memorials was discussed by all, including the option to provide a memorial garden(s). It was noted that this issue was previously discussed by an earlier SPC, including the positive and negative issues associated with roadside memorials. Different views were expressed by the SPC and it was confirmed that the current policy was not to permit roadside memorials. Following a discussion, it was agreed by the SPC not to amend the current policy and that no memorial gardens would be recommended.

Item 8 – Electric Vehicles (EV)

An open discussion on electric vehicles, their use, parking and associated parking fees took place. The option of parking fees for on street parking/charging of electric vehicles was discussed. The designation of EV off-street parking spaces was discussed. Enforcement issues were raised and the need for clarification was agreed. EV policy in other town/cities – Galway and Cork - were discussed. It was agreed that the SPC would draft a policy for consideration.

Item 9 – Any Other Business

N. Morrissey confirmed that the monthly update to Kildare County Council from the Roads and Transportation Section would be provided to the members of the SPC, for information purposes. The meeting noted that this was a very positive step and the information was welcomed by all non- elected SPC members.

A brief overview of the newly established Naas Roads and Transportation Steering Group was provided, its work and progress to date.

Item 10 - Conclusion

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

The next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday November 03, 2016.