



Minutes

Transportation, Water & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Monday 11th December, 2023 at 11:00 am, Würzburg Room, County Buildings

Present: Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Derek Mitchell
Cllr. Joe Behan
Margaret Coughlan, Trade Union ICTU
Éanna Gallagher, Environment/Conservation
Donal Murray, Business Commercial

Staff: Leonora Earls, DOS
Linda Healy, SEO
John Bowes, SE
Aidan Dempsey, CFO
Vivienne Killeen, SO
Michaela Doyle, CO

Apologies: Cllr. Irene Winters
Cllr. Vincent Blake
Tomás Peare, Development Construction
Mark O'Neill A.O.

Vacant: Agriculture Farming

Item 1: To note the minutes of 25th September 2023

Proposed by Cllr. Derek Mitchell and seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald

Item 2: Dart + Coastal South Project

Cllr Derek Mitchell requested the SPC to write to Irish Rail about bad management of the DART at Greystones and the lack of response to three letters of complaint over the last month that he had addressed to the CEO of Irish rail. (copy of correspondence attached), and the cancelling of the N11/M11 Junction 4 to 14 Scheme did not provide any proper plan for an adequate train system south of Greystones.

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald informed the meeting that funding is being invested in other counties for rail infrastructure, but Co. Wicklow didn't receive any and still only standing room only on trains for commuters. Cllr Derek Mitchell commented that funding for the Waterford to Rosslare line has been allocated but Wicklow had lost out. It was agreed that Linda Healy would write on behalf of the SPC to Irish Rail and the TD's.

Item 3: NTA Schemes Update

Michael Flynn gave an update (see attached presentation)

Completed works on the footpath from Rathnew to Glenealy that was carried out by NTA direct labour crew was applauded by the Committee. Cllr Joe Behan proposed that a policy should be put in place and brought to the elected members at a Council meeting that direct labour crews should be used to carry out more works in the Municipal Districts; this proposal was seconded by Margaret Coughlan.

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald commented that Parents of school children in Arklow were in support of the Safe Route to Schools projects completed in Arklow at St Johns SNS, and SS. Michael's and Peter's J.NS. He also asked when the other schools on the programme would be completed, Michael Flynn informed the meeting that funded was not available yet for the other schools that had applied for the scheme.

He also applauded the work that was carried out by the NTA team for the new Pathway put in at the rear of Woodlands Estate on route to Glenart Wood, but still waiting for the public lighting to be connected.

A discussion took place about a trip to Utrecht, The Netherlands by Elected members and County Council Staff from the 3rd to 6th October, to experience Dutch cycling infrastructure; and a visit from the Dutch Cycling Embassy and the Dutch Ambassador to Ireland Maaïke van Koldam to Greystones on the 9th November, 2023.

3: TII Funded Projects

John Bowes gave an update (see attached presentation).

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald and Cllr Derek Mitchell asked John Bowes in relation to the proposed weighbridge at J19 was there a use for it, of which John Bowes informed the committee that weighbridges were used by AGS.

Cllr Derek Mitchell commented that the bus stop south of Barry's Bridge was not being used as buses had an issue getting up the hill, and there is a need for buses to stop there.

Cllr Joe Behan said that it was disappointing that the Minister for Transport had cancelled the Junction 4 to 14 N11/M11 project and asked was there any progress on making funding available to progress it. Director of Services, Leonora Earls advised that WCC would continue to highlight this with TII, and an application for Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) was being prepared to submit to the DOT for funding. On the BPIS, John Bowes said that they were waiting on the report to be issued from the consultants after the public consultation was held, and WCC would then make a decision on it.

Margaret Coughlan informed the meeting that employees in the health sector had sent submissions to the Minister of Health in relation to the impact the traffic issues on the N11/M11 was having on workers travelling to jobs in County Wicklow. Cllr Joe Behan suggested that letters need to be sent to the five TD's in the County.

Cllr Joe Behan asked about why the noise mitigation plan would not be completed until Q2/Q3 2024. John Bowes stated that the works had to go to tender for a contractor to be appointed.

5 Other Road Projects and operations Update

Cllr Joe Behan raised the issue of Public lighting repairs still not carried out especially in Ballywaltrim, Bray. Michael Flynn informed the meeting that a new contract had been awarded to ENERVEO for lighting maintenance, but still issues with ESB networks in responding to repairs on cable faults.

Éanna Gallagher asked if there was funding for footpaths, that the footpath to the school in Kimacanogue was very narrow. Cllr Joe Behan commented that the €100,000 pledged by Brian Gleeson, Finance Officer at the 2024 Budget meeting was not enough and more funding should be sought from the Capital Levies.

Director of Services, Leonora Earls said the €100,000 was an initial amount being allocated to the Districts and was a rolling fund.

Eanna Gallagher asked for clarification if the Traffic lights in Bray were controlled by Dublin City Council, and there were issues with lights on the Herbert Road and Main Street. Michael Flynn confirmed that they were controlled by the Dublin Central Control Office.

6. Fire Services Policy Update

Aidan Dempsey gave an update (presentation attached).

Cllr. Joe Behan commended Aidan Dempsey and staff of WCC involved on the work put in to award Fire crews the increase of payments as a result of the recent Industrial action, and for his appreciation to be noted. This was seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

7. Water Services Policy Update

John Bowes gave an update (presentation attached)

A discussion took place as to who had responsibility for Surface water drainage as to whether it was Uisce Éireann or WCC. John Bowes confirmed that Drainage would still come under WCC and Sewerage under Uisce Éireann.

8. AOB

Linda Healy, SEO presented the Road Safety Plan 2023-2030 to the Committee, for noting, and advised that it would be brought before the elected members at the Ordinary Council meeting in January 2024.

Director of Service, Leonora Earls thanked Linda for all her hard work as the Road Safety Officer for Wicklow

9. Next meeting

Monday, 26th February at 2:30 pm in the Würzburg room, County Buildings.

Signed: 
Cathaoirleach

Dated ~~12/1/2023~~
26/2/2024