



Minutes

Transportation, Water & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Monday 26th February, 2024 at 2.30pm, Würzburg Room, County Buildings

Present: Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Derek Mitchell
Cllr. Joe Behan
Cllr. Vincent Blake
Margaret Coughlan, Trade Union ICTU Congress
Tomás Peare, Development Construction

Staff: Leonora Earls, DOS
Linda Healy, SEO
John Bowes, SE
Michael Flynn, SE
Aidan Dempsey, CFO
Michael Carroll, CDO
Mark O'Neill, AO
Vivienne Killeen, SO

Apologies: Cllr. Irene Winters
Donal Murray, Business Commercial
Éanna Gallagher, Environment/Conservation

Vacant: Agriculture Farming

Item 1: To note the minutes of 11th December, 2024

Proposed by Cllr. Joe Behan and seconded Tomás Peare

Item 2: To receive a presentation from Mike Carroll, Civil Defence Officer

Margaret Coughlan complimented Michael Carroll on his presentation and the work that the Civil Defence carry out. She asked if the C.D. go to Schools to recruit and do “show and tell days”. Michael informed the meeting that the minimum age to join the CD is 18 and there is currently a waiting list for people to join.

Leonora Earls, Cllr Pat Fitzgerald and Cllr Joe Behan thanked Michael for his presentation.

Item 3. To receive a presentation on NTA Schemes Update from Michael Flynn, SE

Cllr Vincent Blake thanked Michael Flynn for his presentation and asked if rural areas could be included in Active Travel Projects.

Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald thanked Michael for his presentation and noted that the Safe Routes to School Projects in Arklow at St. Johns SNS and SS. Michaels and Peters JS, was welcomed by the community in Arklow

Cllr Vincent Blake asked if there was funding available for bus shelters in Rural Areas, Michael Flynn informed the meeting the Committee that €500k had been allocated for Bus Shelters from the NTA. Leonora Earls informed the Committee that Arklow MD when they installed bus Shelters had used Discretionary funding. Cllr Pat Fitzgerald asked about bus shelters which display adverts for businesses and what happens to the money that they pay WCC used for.

Item 4. To receive a presentation on Other Projects & Operations update from Michael Flynn, SE

Cllr Blake asked about Pot hole repairs in rural areas, and Cllr Joe Behan asked about Potholes in the Bray MD area, and how is the Velocity patcher managed. Michael Flynn informed the Committee that the Velocity patchers are shared between the Municipal Districts and each MD has to book it for their areas.

Item 5. To receive a presentation on TII Funded Projects from John Bowes, SE

Cllr Joe Behan asked for an update on the Bus Stop at Hollywood, it was 6-8 months late and still no Part 8 on the project. John Bowes informed the Committee that there were certain procedures to go through, and hoped it would go to Part VIII stage early in 2024.

Cllr Joe Behan asked for an update on the M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme

Cllr Derek Mitchell informed the Committee that it has a great effect on the East of the county and there will be chaos if the scheme does not go ahead

Margaret Coughlan informed the Committee that traffic delays on the N11/M11 have gotten worse, and especially for commuters going to and from Wicklow Town, and Blended working has not solved the problem, she had received submissions from the HSE and Union reps, and this needs to be reflected.

John Bowes informed the Committee that the M11N11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme was continued to be promoted as the preferred scheme, and an application for EU funding in 2024 from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) was unsuccessful.

Significant negative response to the proposed closure of the N11 access to the Herbert Road

- Further environmental studies and traffic analysis have been carried out
- Further consideration now given to the preferred options at J8 Kilmac, J7 Bray south (including Herbert Road access) and J6 Fassaroe (including the R117 access)
- Due to complexities involved, work on the preferred option between J6 and J8 will extend into the Phase 3 design, and still in the early stages.

Leonora Earls informed the Committee that correspondence was sent to the Wicklow TD's, to highlight the pressure on both rail and road users and the current commuting times and congestion experienced on a daily basis.

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald informed the Committee that there is no room on trains for passengers and extra carriages are needed, and no funding was received for Co. Wicklow for Rail Transport

Cllr Derek Mitchell noted that the management of the railway and timetables for trains are very badly managed.

Cllr Vincent Blake asked would the Minister for Transport ensure funding for the N81, some work has been done, there is a large number of Lorries coming out of quarries and the roads need to be kept clean.

John Bowes informed the Committee that more works on the N81 are planned and due to commence in May 2024

The cleaning of the roads is an ongoing issue, Pat Byrne District Engineer; Baltinglass MD is planning to meet quarry owners and AGS to try to solve issues.

Item 6. To receive a presentation on Water Services Policy update from John Bowes, SE

Tomás Peare informed the committee that when an application is made to Uisce Eireann for water connections there are no contacts available if you wish to discuss your application further or look for a follow up, and a very poor service.

Cllr Joe Behan added that this holds up water connections being carried out when there is a housing crisis, and could this be discussed at a council meeting.

Cllr Vincent Blake asked if there was an email address to send correspondence to Uisce Eireann

Leonora Earls suggested this could be discussed with Uisce Eireann and the Construction Industry Federation (CIF) and proposed that a letter should be sent to them to outline their concerns. She would also look for an email address for correspondence to be sent to.

Item 8. Correspondence

- (a) **To note the Ethical Framework Requirements for Local Government Service for Non Members** – email received from Gavin O’Connor, Ethics Registrar and circulated to the Committee
- (b) **Responses received in relation to Dart Service/N11/M11 issues**
A response received from Deputy Stephen Donnelly by email was circulated to the Committee Members.

Item 9 AOB

The Committee thanked Cllr Pat Fitzgerald for his work as Chairperson on the SPC. They also thanked Leonora Earls for the work she had done as Director of Service, and this was her last meeting in the role as she was now taking up the post of DOS of the Planning, Economic & Rural Development Directorate.

Cllr Joe Behan complimented Leonora and said she was excellent in her role and a great asset to Wicklow County Council.

Item 10. Next Meeting

To be decided.

Note This meeting concluded the meetings of the Transportation, Water & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Cathaoirleach