

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire and Emergency Services Issues held in County Hall on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2019**

**Present:** Cllr. Matt Doran (Chairman).  
Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Eamon Aylward.  
Ms Mairead Phelan, Mr. Barry Lynch, John Collins, Gary Graham, Michael Rice.

**In Attendance:** Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services; Mr. Seamus Kavanagh, Senior Engineer Roads, Mr. Joe Scully.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Michael Doyle, Cllr. Tomas Breathnach, Mr. Ger Ferris.

**1. Minutes of previous meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2018**

Minutes of previous meeting of SPC 2 held on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 .  
Proposed by Cllr Michael McCarthy  
Seconded by Cllr Fidelis Doherty and agreed.

**Comprehensive Mobility Plan**

Mobility Management Plan for City is due in Q3 2019. Report will then be prepared for Council.

**2. Climate Change**

Barry Lynch gave a detailed presentation on Climate Change – Proposals for Adaptation/Future Proofing Housing for Electric Vehicle Charging.

Cllr. Matt Doran mentioned that Minister for Climate Change was in Kilkenny previous week. He raised ideas in presentation which could form some part of Policy for Development Plan. It was noted that the Environment SPC are reviewing the preparation of the Energy Plan. It was proposed to send these suggestions with the Environment SPC and for consideration under the Development Plan 2020 - 2026.

Tim Butler commented on a number of queries-  
Kilkenny County Council would be employing a Cycling Officer – a post-graduate from WIT.  
Kilkenny City bus scheme – will start with low emission buses with the long term goal electric buses. There are 20 charging points in Kilkenny. 2 Points in County Hall.

**3. Flood Plans**

Joe Scully, Executive Engineer was welcomed to the Flood Management Schemes Project Kilkenny.

Tim Butler, Director of Services gave a detailed presentation of Flood Management Schemes Kilkenny. Main Points:

- Two Engineers appointed.
- 300 Areas identified nationally – 12 in Kilkenny.
- There is a Steering Committee set up and they will be appointing Consultants.

- 1 billion committed over 10 years Nationally 29 million for Kilkenny.
- Consultation with the public will include a project website.
- Quarterly Newsletters.
- Local Groups/Stakeholders meetings.

Cllr. Matt Doran praised Callan Flood Relief scheme over the last couple of severe weather events. Mr. Michael Rice asked if rivers could be dredged. A Dredging Plan would need to be approved by inland fisheries in order to carry out such works.

#### **4. School Safety Programme**

Seamus Kavanagh presented a Presentation on School Safety. He looked at Safety Measures around Schools.

There are 86 schools in the County catering for 14,000+ students.

Complete Audit done in 2006/2007.

Between 2006 – 2009 there was a lot of projects completed.

Road safety plan 2015 – 2020 is to be reviewed.

A full audit of all schools to be completed in 2019/2020 and a works programme put in place.

Cllr Eamon Aylward praised work done on schools - brings some positivity to charging of development charges. Eamon Aylward wondering if it was possible to train Council Staff to maintain lights/train electricians. Seamus Kavanagh to look at same but stated some aspects are complex and require specialist trades.

Cllr. Doran asked if they could come up with some policy and over the next couple of years set aside money from roads budget each year. Include School Safety Scheme in forthcoming budgets.

Cllr. Fidelis Doherty asked if road marking could be re-done on schools as parking for parents at Ballyfacey is not good. Could SPC assist schools to make schools safer? Cllr Matt Doran proposed that Seamus Kavanagh carry out Audit and include in budget in October.

#### **5. DTTAS – Road Allocations/Road Ratings**

Seamus gave a detailed presentation on non national road allocations. Cllr Matt Doran complimented the Roads Section on works undertaken on roads for the term of the current council which amounted to in excess of €100m for the 5 year period. Cllr. Doran asked if Council would pursue additional funding for LIS\CIR schemes. Seamus Kavanagh stated that Kilkenny will seek additional funding as the year progresses. Tim Butler agreed to send on information for CIR and LIS Schemes to Michael Rice from the IFA.

Underpass Safety Issue – Michael Rice spoke about possible grants for agricultural underpasses. Proposed by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and seconded by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty “ that a Letter to be sent to the Department of Gaeltacht Community and Rural Affairs, Agriculture and Environment.”

#### **AOB**

John Collins, Chief Fire Officer presented a handout on fire and Emergency Services Milestones 2014 – 2019.

As it was the last meeting of the Term the Chair of the SPC Cllr Matt Doran thanked all the members of committee for their work and commitment over the last number of years. All the committee said a few words of thank you to fellow members and executive. Michael

Rice appreciated meeting with the executive. He said it was unlikely he would be back for next term and he hoped the Underpass issue would be pursued on safety grounds.

Cllr. Doran asked John Collins to acknowledge the role that the Fire Officers play. Barry Lynch would like to see his proposals implemented and would like to continue to next term of Committee.

**6. Next Meeting:**

Next Meeting will not be held until after the local elections in May 2019.

This concluded the business of the meeting.