

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Infrastructure Policy,
Transportation, Fire and Emergency Services Issues held in County Hall on
Friday 10th June 2016.**

Present: Cllr. Matt Doran (Chairman).

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach; Cllr. Michael Doyle; Cllr. Michael McCarthy; Cllr. Fidelis Doherty; Cllr. Sean Tyrrell.

Ms. Mairead Phelan; Mr. Barry Lynch; Mr. Billy Walsh; Mr. Michael Rice.

In Attendance: Mr. Frank Stafford, Senior Executive Engineer; Mr. John Collins, A/CFO and Martin Butler, Administrative Officer.

Apology: Cllr. Eamon Aylward.

Preliminary

The Chairman Cllr. Matt Doran welcomed Cllr. Sean Tyrrell to his first meeting and introduced him to all the members present.

Cllr. Fidelis Doherty and all the other members of the committee congratulated Cllr. Matt Doran on his election as Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council. Cllr. Doran thanked the committee members for their congratulations and good wishes for the year ahead.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of previous meeting of SPC 2 held on 4th March 2016.

Proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty

Seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy
and Agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

(a) Broadband

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach referred to the role of the Rural Fibre Deployment and the current progress being made and it was agreed to have an update on this progress for the next SPC2 meeting.

(b) Bus Routes/Rural Transport

In reply to a query from Cllr. F. Doherty it was stated by Mr. Frank Stafford that the development of the bus stop on the N25 in Glenmore is expected to be completed by the end of July.

(c) Greenways

The committee agreed the text of the following Notice of Motion for submission to the County Council meeting in June:

The SPC 2 Committee (Infrastructure, Water Services and Fire & Emergency Services) recommends that Kilkenny County Council submits a Notice of Motion to the Department of Tourism seeking policy recognition and funding support for the development of cross-county boundary Greenways and Blueways that will link the South East Region with the Grand Canal and other such amenities. In particular Greenway/Blueway projects such as the Barrow Blueway, Deise Greenway (Dungarvan / Waterford), Waterford/New Ross Greenway and New Ross/Rosslare Greenway, when combined, represent a tourism product of international significance and the realisation of such projects should be supported by National Policy and National Funding Programmes.

3.(a) FIRE SAFETY REGULATIONS

Mr. John Collins A/Chief Fire Officer gave an overview of the functions under the Fire Services Act 1981 and 2003 and a document entitled Fire Safety-Fire Prevention prepared by Mr. John Collins was circulated at the meeting.

1.1. Fire Prevention-Providing advice to Kilkenny County Council Planning Authority.

Under Section 13 of the Fire Services Act, 1981 the Fire Authority may advise a planning authority in relation to the functions of the planning authority regarding permission for development and for the retention of structures.

1.2 Provision of advice under Section 18 of the Fire Services Act 1981 and 2003.

The Fire Authority provides advice and Fire Safety and can inspect existing public premises. Responsibility for fire safety rests with the person having control over the premises . Fire Prevention Officers hold fire safety certificate/fire prevention clinics on a weekly basis in Fire Station HQ.This initiative has been a huge success in reducing (a) Fire Safety Certificate invalidation rates (b) Fire safety Certificate refusal rates. A register is also maintained of premises inspected.

1.3 Inspections under Section 24 of the Fire Service Act 1981 and 2003.

The Fire Authority carries out inspections of licensed premises under section 24 of the Fire Services Act, 1981 and 2003 and associated Licensing Acts. Licence applications include renewal of public licences, dance licences, transfer of publican licences, hotel and restaurant licences.

1.4 Inspections under Dangerous substance Act 1972.

This relates to inspections of petroleum installations, retail and bulk. Recent inspections include new petrol station in Paulstown and on the Bennettsbridge Road, Kilkenny.

1.5 Performance Inspections on Places of Public Assembly.

These inspections are carried out in public places of assembly in Kilkenny on a risk basis and where appropriate in consultation with An Garda Síochána.

1.6 Large Crowd Events.

Fire Service personnel work with other agencies (An Garda Síochána, Health Services Executive, Local Authority etc. in pre-planning for large crowd events such as GAA-Home Coming Celebrations, Concerts in Nowlan Park, St. Patrick's Day Parade.

1.7. Fire Safety Certificates.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service Fire Officers advise on current Building Regulations including fire safety standards required for proposed developments.

1.8 Community Fire Safety (CFS)

Keeping Communities Safe (KCS) advises that there should be a minimum of 90% of domestic dwellings fitted with working smoke alarms by 2017. Kilkenny Fire & Rescue Service also respond positively to requests for presentations, appearances at field Days on fire safety from community groups.

1.9 Primary School Programme (PSP)

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service deliver the National Directorate Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) Schools Programme which is targeted at all 3rd Class Primary School children and this programme is running since 2006.

A discussion then followed and Mr. Collins responded to questions from members of the SPC2 .

3.(b).Fire Safety Plan 2016-2020.

A draft Fire Safety Plan 2016-2020 was circulated at the meeting . It was agreed that the members of the committee will review the draft plan and it will be placed on the agenda of the next SPC2 for consideration and discussion

4.Road Safety Plan.

Mr. Frank Stafford gave an update on the Road Safety Plan. Following ratification of the Road Safety Plan 2015-2020 by the SPC2 it was and adopted by the Council at their meeting in July 2015. It sets out a clear blueprint for road safety up to 2020 and sets out 39 individual projects with 57 Actions/ Targets up to 2020. The following key actions taken since the adoption of the plan are as follows:

- 2015 Road Works Scheme was delivered with a budget of €22.5m.
- Under the Road Restoration and Maintenance Programme structural resurfacing accounted for 41kms and surface dressing 75kms.
- N77 Ballynaslee Road Realignment completed in 2015 at a cost of €4.5m.
- Ballyragget Pavement Improvement and Urban Village Renewal Scheme.
- N24 Mooncoin Pavement Rehabilitation Scheme and results from a survey before and after the completion of the works show a reduction of speed from 72.3km/h to 60.5km/h.
- 10.No. Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes completed.

2016 Roadwork's Programme

- A budget of 22.5m approx. adopted by the Council in 2016
- Pavement rehabilitation of over 8kms planned for the N78 and 1.6km on the N77.
- N76 Callan Road Realignment-4.25km improvement scheme
- Introduction of 30 km/hr Speed Limits and Slow Zones in residential areas in County Kilkenny is now substantially complete.
- Speed Limit Review for the County-Pre-draft Consultation stage with stakeholders, the TII and KCC review and the presentation to each Municipal District is now complete. The public consultation process due to commence at the end of June. Submissions will be assessed and go back to the Municipal Districts in November and before the full Council in February 2017 and come into effect in March 2017.

Weighbridges

Paulstown is under construction and expected completion date September 2016.
Glenmore is under construction and expected completion date July 2016.

RSA have chosen Kilkenny County Council for Roadside Enforcement Pilot Project as a multi vehicle station and a site in Urlingford is currently being investigated.

Education

Road Safety Show which is a Garda initiative held in the Watergate Theatre on the 9th and 10th May for-Transition Year Students. It covers basics of learning to drive with graphic results of accidents.

Placement of VMS on major routes with road safety messages.

Enforcement

No. of speed enforcement zones in Kilkenny increased from 22 to 34 since 27th May 2016.

Following this update a discussion then followed and Mr. Stafford replied to questions from the committee.

The meeting agreed to write to An Garda Siochana to investigate if the Council can be given an opportunity to have an input in identifying future sites for the location of speed vans.

The members also discussed ways in which to increase the profile of road safety and the issue of road safety messages in the media and social media outlets.

In addition the meeting discussed the lack of cycling routes and designated bus stops in Ferrybank. Designated bus stop in Slieverue and ongoing efforts to secure a designated bus stop at St. Luke's Hospital in Kilkenny also discussed.

The need for more mobile VMS signs in the county was mentioned and it was noted that an audit of the existing equipment is planned.

Members also discussed drawing up a list of schools in the county to consider for inclusion in the annual Road Safety Show.

Reference also made to submissions made to the Council for reduction of the speed limit on the Rock Road from 80km/h in Inistioge and the criteria that applies.

The inclusion of the N24 under the Minor Works Programme was noted.

5.Pilot Community Flood Resilience Projects-Thomastown and Graiguenamanagh.

Mr .Frank Stafford outlined details of the scheme.

The Office of Public Works (OPW) as lead agency for flooding in Ireland, is developing a response to localised flooding issues under the minor works programme. The cost of the scheme must be less than €500,000 and Thomastown and Graiguenamanagh have been identified by Kilkenny County Council.

While the issue of ongoing flooding in those towns will be considered by the OPW under the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme it was agreed by the OPW in the short term to progress a Pilot Project in both towns which will facilitate the local community in being better resourced to deal with flood events.

Following a recent tender competition, Kilkenny County Council in conjunction with the OPW have appointed ARUP to provide Consulting Engineer services for the project and they commenced work on 1st June 2016.

The OPW has agreed to fund a study to assess the viability of protecting individual properties in both towns consisting of Stage1-Preliminary and Stage 2-Design. On completion of Stage 2 the OPW will review the details of Stages 1 and 2 before a decision is made to proceed with the implementation of the proposed measures on the ground.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Transport

Ms. Mairead Phelan referred to a meeting she had in Newpark Close recently and transport difficulties brought to her notice by a foreign student trying to commute to college and another person with other transport problems. It was agreed at the meeting that a letter could be submitted by or on behalf of anyone with such issues to the SPC2 for consideration .

This concluded the business of the meeting.

