

TRANSPORTATION, WATER EMERGENCY SERVICES SPC
Strategic Policy Committee meeting 12th January, 2021 via Zoom

Present:

Cllr Derek Mitchell, Chair
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr Joe Behan
Cllr. Vincent Blake
Colm Lavery, Director of Services, Transportation, Water & Emergency Services
Michael Flynn, Senior Engineer, Transportation, Water & Emergency Services
John Bowes, Senior Engineer, Roads
Aidan Dempsey, Chief Fire Officer
Conor Page, Executive Engineer
Deirdre Forde, Executive Engineer
Tim Morgan, Environment/Conservation
Tomas Pearse, Development Construction
Helena Dennehy, Senior Executive Officer
Allyson Minion, Administrative Officer
Vicky O Neill, Assistant Staff Officer
Margaret Coughlan, Trade Union
Tom O Leary, Senior Engineer, Irish Water
Martin Alan, Arup
Eimear Keane, Kildare NRO
Aidan Cleary, Arup
Ronan McAnroe, Kildare NRO

Non-Attendance:

Pat Dunne
Donal Murray
Cllr. Irene Winters

Item 1: To note the minutes of 30th September, 2020

Cllr. Derek Mitchell opened the meeting. Minutes noted.

Item 2: Briefing session on the N11/M11 Junction 4 to Junction 14 Improvement Scheme

Presentation by Deirdre Forde, Ronan McAnroe and Martin Alan provided an update in relation to this scheme. The presentation was provided via email in advance of the meeting.

Cllr. Joe Behan thanked everyone involved in the presentation. He requested an indication of options for the northern corridor.

Arup advised that:

- Public transfer measures
- Junction improvements
- Additional/parallel lane

are all possible solutions.

Cllr. Joe Behan feels priority of NTI is the N11 and that traffic build up out/in to Bray is given less priority as long as the N11 is flowing freely.

Cllr. Derek Mitchell pointed out that at the population projections were not accurate and that he feels that needs to be factored into any transport solutions especially for Greystones.

Cllr Derek Mitchell was advised that the NTA assess population figures and undertake sensitivity tests to ensure traffic is not underestimated.

Tim Morgan said he was happy to see that a tunnel was an option and that it would be preferable to cutting through forest. He asked how strong an option was it?

Arup advised that once the study is completed and the project moves onto stage 2, feasible options will become clearer.

Cllr Derek Mitchell thanked the team for their work.

Item 3: Discussion – Public Consultations – NTA & Irish Water

Cllr. Derek Mitchell advised he wanted the Council to make a submission in relation to the strategy. Colm reiterated his intention to make a submission.

The Chief Executive received a letter from the NTA advising that an advisory group would have an input into the review of the strategy. Michael Flynn said he was in close contact with the NTA and that it was intended to submit a detailed submission and any input was welcome.

Cllr. Joe Behan requested an update on linking the Luas to the Park and Rides. Michael Flynn advised that the Luas would not be extended to Bray until after the metro has been delivered as far as Sandyford. There will be ongoing engagement in relation to same.

Cllr. Vincent Blake requested an update on the new N81 Bypass and Michael Flynn advised that the Tallaght/Hollywood Bypass was suspended and that they were looking at N81 improvements. Wicklow County Council received approval from TII to progress the N81 Tuckmill Lower, N81 Hangman's Bend, N81 Irishtown West projects (The N81 Four Studies) in accordance with Phase 1 to 4 of the TII Project Management Guidelines (PMG).

John Bowes gave an update on the Knockroe bends with a view to improvements. This is at feasibility report stage at present.

Cllr. Derek Mitchell advised that there was continuous long journeys from Wicklow to Dublin and that it was imperative that a good bus service exists. Cycle lanes slow down the bus service and bus services appeared to have reduced in priority. This should be referred to in any submission made.

Tom O Leary gave a briefing on the National Water Resource Plan.

Item 4 – Summary updates on schemes 2020/proposed 2021 and to note update on busconnects, update on public lighting LED retrofit rollout and Draft Agreement between WCC and TII to install ramp metering at junction 6 Fassaroe

Conor Page gave an update on NTA schemes.

Colm advised NTA and TII work was considered essential but other works on roads safety schemes had been suspended.

Michael Flynn gave an update on Fassaroe junction 6.

Cllr. Joe Behan thanked everyone for the updates. He said that a condition with regard to zoning advised that the community/recreational land comes first before development.

Michael advised that extensive engagement with the developer is completed first and that the overall masterplan was to have recreational space frontloaded.

Cllr. Joe Behan requested update on LED retrofit. Colm advised that lights that have gone out are being repaired with LED bulbs and that the national retrofit rollout is due to start mid year.

Cllr. Derek Mitchell enquired about the Delgany to Blacklion cycle lane and Conor Page advised that the scheme is progressing and work is currently being done on the CPO. Cllr. Derek Mitchell questioned how long this process is taking and was advised by Colm that the CPO, map and notices have been prepared and are currently with our Law Department and that he is considering outsourcing the work.

Item 5 – Allocations NTA, TII DTTAS & Irish Water

Helena Dennehy provided an update on all allocations. Allocations are awaited from NTA and DTTAS for 2021.

Item 6 – Fire Services Capital Allocations and update.

Aidan Dempsey, Chief Fire Officer gave an update on the Fire Services.

Cllr. Behan thanked the Chief Fire Officer and asked was there capacity to provide two crews in a full time fire service. The Chief Fire Officer advised that the fire training was not completed and until they have sufficient numbers fully trained there could not be two crews.

Cllr. Fitzgerald acknowledged work done during the pandemic. The fire services is very professional and effective.

Tim Morgan encouraged members to look at Irish Water summary.

Item 7 – AOB

Michael Flynn acknowledged the work done by the winter crews on front gritting.

Item 8 – Schedule of meetings 2021

Dates for the next meeting include:

13th April, 2021 @9.30

6th July, 2021 @9.30

12th October, 2021 @ 9.30

Minutes of 12th January, 2021 noted and agreed by SPC Committee at SPC meeting of the 13th April, 2021.

