

TRANSPORTATION, WATER & EMERGENCY SERVICES SPC
Strategic Policy Committee meeting 29th October 2019 at 11am Wurzburg Room

Present:

Cllr Derek Mitchell, Chair

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald

Cllr. Joe Behan

Mr. Colm Lavery, Director of Services, Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

Mr. Michael Flynn, Senior Engineer, Transportation, Water & Emergency Services

Ms. Helena Dennehy, Senior Executive Officer

Allyson Minion, Administrative Officer

Margaret Coughlan - Trade Union Representative

Pat Dunne, Agriculture / Farming Representative

Tomás Peare, Development Construction Representative

Donal Murray, Business / Commercial Representative

Eileen Brennan, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies:

Aidan Dempsey, Chief Fire Officer, Helena Fallon, Senior Engineer.

Non-Attendance:

Tim Morgan, Environment/Conservation Representative

Cllr. Irene Winters, Cllr. Vincent Blake.




Item 1. New Committee Members and Supporting Staff

Cllr. Derek Mitchell invited everyone to introduce themselves and to say where / what area they represented.

Item 2. Overview / Presentation of Functions of Transportation Water & Emergency Services Directorate

Ms. Helena Dennehy distributed a document including Staffing, Functions & Funding, an update on current schemes & work programmes, SPC Committee, Corporate Plan and notes.

Support Staff in Transportation, Water & Emergency Services Directorate are:

-  Helena Dennehy, Senior Executive Officer
-  Michael Flynn, Senior Engineer, Transportation & Projects
-  Aidan Dempsey, Chief Fire Officer

Transportation & Roads Administrative staff x 36, Public Water & Waste Water Services 67.55 staff, Fire Services 7 + Part-time Retained Fire Fighters, Civil Defence 1 full time Officer +Volunteers, Building Control 2 staff.

Item 3. Update on Current Schemes and Work Programmes

Mr. Michael Flynn, Senior Engineer, talked about some of the Schemes and Work Programmes as follows:

M11/N11 Junction 4 – 14 Improvement Scheme

Discussions are already taking place e.g. liaising with stakeholders e.g. OPW and NPWS and what other projects are being developed etc. An initial public consultation meeting took place in December 2018. The key points at that time were that the full planning should progress and that the solution would not be known until the full planning and design process had been gone through.

The 2nd Public Consultation meeting is to take place in the Glenview Hotel, Glen of the Downs on 12th November 2019 from 12.00noon until 8.00pm. He explained that all possible solutions would be investigated including road, rail, bus and sustainable transport measures. Topographical, Environmental Surveys, Utilities and Land Ownership are also very important. At this event, the Project Team will be seeking public participation in the collation of constraints and feedback on the proposals displayed. A briefing to Councillors will take place that morning.

It is envisaged that the Options Report, which will conclude an Emerging Preferred Option will go to public consultation on or before Q2 2020.

Bus Connects

NTA - There are two key elements:

1. Core Bus corridor – infrastructure and bus routes
2. Network re-design – operation of bus services – timetables etc.

NTA - A public consultation on the Network Re-Design will take place in the Royal Hotel in Bray on the 18th November from 11.30am to 5.30pm and on 19th November from 1.30 to 7.30pm. Details of the Network Design proposals are on the NTA Bus Connects website.

Gratitude was expressed to Michael Flynn for meeting representatives and for the way he handled concerns in relation to this.

N11 Kilmacanogue Parallel Service Road

This is a Safety Scheme designed to address the safety issues at Kilmacanogue on the N11 associated with the vehicular movements from properties adjacent to the N11, particularly those associated with Circle K filling station. There are also footpath and local issues. A Part 8 planning approval and a tender competition was undertaken and SIAC Construction were successful.

On 22nd October 2019, TII granted Wicklow County Council approval to progress this project. This project should be finished by Summer 2020.

Service Road & Greenway from Kilmacanogue to Bray Southern Cross

Part 8 was given to this Project. Tender brief and contract documents are being prepared for appointing Consultants. It is proposed to construct a Service Road to the rear of properties along the N11 at Kilmacanogue and pedestrian/cycle link to Bray Southern Cross. Tender to issue in November 2019. A funding application has been made to the NTA seeking support. Another option includes a route to the east of Kilmacanogue. This route will be on public display at the upcoming public consultation on 12th November 2019 in the Glenview Hotel, Glen of the Downs.

LUAS

The plans for the LUAS Project are listed in the

1. Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy – 2016-2035
2. National Development Plan 2016 – 2035 (delivery date of post 2027)
3. Project Ireland 2040 (refers to GDA Strategy for LUAS extension)
4. Wicklow County Council Development Plan
5. Bray Town and Environs Plan

As part of the ongoing M11/N11 design process, Wicklow County Council requires updates from the NTA. The proposals set out in the GDA Strategy remain their objective for LUAS to Bray.

Improvement to Rail Services are set out in the GDA Transport Strategy

The South East line will facilitate the necessary increase in capacity and will require agreeing the NTA & LA level crossing closure plan, a level of road relief infrastructure in lieu of increased level crossing frequency, high capacity turn-back at Dun Laoghaire or Bray, provision of rolling stock stabling and integration of DART expansion with MetroLink at Tara Street.

As part of the M11/N11 Junction 4-14 improvement scheme, discussions are ongoing with NTA and Irish Rail with regard to proposed improvements to DART and Rail. The position set out in the GDA Transport Strategy will govern investment decisions for the foreseeable future.

The following points were raised and views expressed viz:

- There is a massive influx of people. People not being able to get to work is worrying and concerning.
- There are 26 buses per day from Arklow / Kilmacanogue / Bray
- Public transport needs to be hurried up
- NTA / TII are looking at hard shoulder options for buses etc. (*Belfast/Holland*)
- Re-design of junctions may need legislation
- East & West Project Management Guidelines –Area Contractor to have a look at speeding up the process – Gateways
- Encourage as many people as possible to go to these public meetings
- More train carriages need to be ordered – there are 2 with short carriages now - how can we influence to get these sooner?
- Greystones & Arklow better

- Greystones - to make travelling by train more useable, have trains at more frequent times e.g. 3 times at rush hour – every 20 / 30 minutes is feasible but a lot of work needs to be done to make this happen.
- Concern that traffic is going to get rapidly worse
- M11/N11 Junction 4 – 14 - Public Consultation Glenview Hotel – ARUP/KNRO displaying options for transportation improvements – 12th November 2019
- Expression that it is not feasible for everyone to use public transport – some people need their cars for/in work
- Full support for the Railway – Golden opportunity for Old Fassaroe where there will be LUAS stop and Park & Ride
- Question raised - would LUAS stop at Woodbrook
- People from Arklow etc would also have opportunity to use these services
- Concern was raised about the length of time it is going to take – 2027 and that these timelines will need to be adjusted
- Write again to invite to the SPC and/or Council Meeting
- Greystones Municipal District actually visited the NTA about buses
- It was proposed by *Cllr Joe Behan and seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald* to invite the NTA and the TII to the next SPC meeting scheduled Monday 20th January 2020 at 2.30pm.

Ms. Helena Dennehy, SEO, explained the role and contribution this SPC can make

- Input to Policy & Strategy
- Assisting & Advising on protocol and policy before submission to full Council
- Focus of SPC should be on:
 - ✓ Progress and plan over next six months
 - ✓ See where we are moving towards
 - ✓ Suggestions from committee
 - ✓ National Policy or Local Policy
- Carry out reviews - Road Safety Plan, Speed Limits, Local Improvement Schemes, Parking Byelaws
- Members of the committee requested update for the following meeting in the areas of:
 - ✓ Parking & the effect it is having in some towns
 - ✓ Public County – Rural Link, Train Services
 - ✓ Climate Change SPC
 - ✓ Review - possibility of full time fire service in North Wicklow
 - ✓ Winter Weather – In 2010-2011 there was a huge outcry from farmers being liable if anything happened. The Local Authority were made aware of it and it has now been resolved (MF).

Winter Maintenance

- The Sally Gap Road is very dangerous in bad weather - Mountain Rescue put their lives at risk to rescue 'snow tourists' who get stuck in. This road should be closed on these occasions.
- There is no legislation to close this road

Question raised - Introduce Legislation to Close Roads in Bad Weather (like they do at present in Scotland)

Arklow

- 3rd Interchange needed
- 14,000 to 25,000 Housing Pressures – Vale Road has to be looked at
- It was Proposed by Mr Donal Murray and seconded by Cllr P Fitzgerald to have a Traffic Study undertaken
- The Traffic Study would cost under €200k. CL agreed – Chief Executive 100% behind it too. Population, houses etc. P.P. An Bord Pleanála – what needs to be funded – CL to bring this back to the CE
- Data Centre going ahead
- 749 houses at Kilbride delayed

Item 4. Role of SPC

- SPC Scheme
- Contribution and Development of Policy
- Ethics – Local Government Act 2001
- Focused Work Programme of Committee for 2020

Policy Areas for Policy Review

- Speed Limit review
- Full-time Fire Service in North Wicklow review
- Winter Maintenance Protocols (6-12 months) review

Possible SPC Sub-Committees are required in each area (2/3) to do a particular thing – split into groups.

Schedule of meetings attached – 3rd Monday of month (3/4 times per year)
Contact Derek Mitchell (Chair) if you need to place anything on the Agenda.

Item 5. Wicklow County Council Corporate Plan

HD – Corporate Plan – SPC Members asked to make submission / look at different areas / get submissions in / SPC to note plan prepared and on website

Item 6. Any other business

- There may be a requirement for SPC to meet between the dates specified
- Noise Action Plan

The Noise Action Plan is available on website this pm 29/10/2019 at

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Roads-Transport/Road-Policy/Noise-Action-Plan>

Irish Water

Connection process to Irish Water was discussed and examples used. Members enquired if there was an appeal process for businesses that are charged excessive amounts by Irish Water.

The help and support of the Director of Services CL was acknowledged by all.

Subsequent to meeting, HD confirmed that businesses can appeal to CRU and members can make representations through dedicated IW representative contact.

It was noted that a Service Level Agreement exists in the Country which began in 2014 and ends in 2025.

- ✓ Irish Water decide what has to be done.
- ✓ WCC actually do the work – local knowledge is key

The Service Level Agreement could be terminated earlier if agreed.

Item 7. Schedule of Meetings 2020

SPC meetings to be held 3 – 4 times per annum. It is proposed to hold these SPC meetings on the third Monday at 2.30pm as follows:

- **Monday 20th January 2020**
- **Monday 20th April 2020**
- **Monday 22nd June 2020**
- **Monday 19th October 2020**

The current SPC Chair is Cllr. Derek Mitchell at mitchelldc@gmail.com 087 25749669
Key Contact Person for SPC Helena Dennehy, Senior Executive Officer -
hdennehy@wicklowcoco.ie 0404 20100 extension: 2252.

SIGNED: _____
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DATED: _____