



Minutes

Transportation, Infrastructure Delivery & Emergency Services

Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 25th February 2025 at 2.30pm, Würzburg Room, County Buildings

Present:

Cllr. Stephen Stokes, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Joe Behan
Cllr Shane Langrell
Cllr Orla Finn
Cllr. Danny Alvey
Ian McGahon, Trade Union
Matthew Hudson, Business and Commercial

Staff:

Joe Lane, DOS
Marc Devereux, DOS
Linda Healy, SEO
John Bowes, SE
Michael Flynn, SE
Vivienne Killeen, SO

Apologies:

Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Mary Catherine Murphy, Agriculture/Farming
Eanna Gallagher, Environment/ Conservation
Tomás Peare, Development Construction
Mark O'Neill, AO

Vacant:

Social Inclusion Representative.

Item No 1. To note the minutes of Meeting held on Monday 18th November, 2024

Proposed by: Cllr Shane Langrell

Seconded by Cllr Joe Behan

Amendments:

- Page 1: Correction to Cllr Danny Alvey's name - add in "n"
- Item No. 6 – Page 4, "Cllr Shane Langrell asked about hedge cutting in rural areas and farmers were not cutting their hedges. "
Insert the word "some" to read as follows
"Cllr Shane Langrell asked about hedge cutting in rural areas and some farmers were not cutting their hedges."
- Item No. 9 – page 5 Correction to Ian McGahan's name – add in "Mc"

Item No 2. To receive a presentation from Iarnród Éireann

- Introduction from Iarnród Éireann Staff, SPC Committee and Wicklow County Council Staff
Jane Cregan, Deputy Corporate Communications Manager,
Paul Wilcock, Programme Manager, DART+ Coastal,
Eddie Quigley – Programme Manager, Infrastructure (joined meeting remotely on TEAMS)

Presentation given on the Dart + Coastal South Project

Stage 1 Bray to Greystones

Stage 2 City centre to Bray

Wicklow Capacity Enhancement Programme

- The presentation was followed by a Q& A session from the Committee to Iarnród Éireann staff

Questions & Answers

1. Dart + Coastal South Project

Status,

Public consultation process – commencement date, reason for delay

Answers Included in presentation

2. Dart to Wicklow

Status of project

Proposed frequency of darts from Wicklow to Greystones and Greystones to Wicklow

Answers Included in presentation

3. Kilcoole Railway Station

Dart Stop for Kilcoole

Provision of shelters at Kilcoole Station

- *Feasibility Study to be done and Eddie Quigley to come back with an answer.*

4. Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk

Any issues to be aware of from Irish Rail's perspective?

- *Land owned by Iarnród Éireann, maintenance work carried out by Wicklow County Council Scoping work being carried out at present to determine what works need to be carried out. Rock netting work being done at present.*

5. Greystones Railway Station

Does Irish Rail routinely staff the ticket office on busy days (matches in Aviva and Croke Park Stadiums), if not, can this be considered?

- *Staff present when station is at full capacity when passengers travelling to events, will review.*

6. Bray Dart Station

Irish Rails proposal to close the level crossing point at the Bray Dart Station to prevent traffic accessing the seafront.

- *Level Crossing at Bray Seafront will remain as it is, no timeframe on change; will have a Public Consultation later on in the year. NTA responsible for design.*

7. Single point of contact for WCC & Consultants to engage with on the Wicklow Railway Public Access Bridge project.

- *To come back with contact details for Colm Grimes and Otto Crowe.*

8. Are there plans in the interim for Wicklow Trains, standing room only at present?

- *Will have carriages with extra capacity, rolling stock from 2026, would also require Infrastructure enhancements.*

9. Are there long term plans for trains to go from Rosslare to Dublin, as difficulties for Disabled passengers to change trains at Bray or Greystones

- *When Dart Coastal + project is completed, this will be looked at and subject to Public Consultation, too early at this stage to provide an answer.*

10. With Battery powered units to serve Wicklow Town, will there be a timetable for early hours/peak time train services.

- *Public Consultation will need to take place.*

Linda Healy to circulate presentation from Paul Wilcock.

Item No. 3 To discuss BusConnects routes/service operations in County Wicklow.

Cllr Joe Behan asked who deals with Bus Connects and improving services. Issues with services at Palermo and Southern Cross at Deepdales. Cllr Orla Finn commented that there are issues with delays at the bus stop in Delgany. Cllr Stephen Stokes commented that there is a delay in journeys to Brides Glen, and issues with buses not turning up.

Cllr Shane Langrell commented that he was informed the bus stop in Newtownmountkennedy will be moved due to a new development, this new location will add to traffic congestion. Also, the bus shelter in Rathnew has still not been erected.

Ian McGahan informed the committee that circa 2020 a plan for a bus route from Newtownmountkennedy to Kilcoole did not go ahead, what was the reason for this and could it be revisited and go back to the NTA on this plan. Cllr Shane Langrell supported this suggestion.

Michael Flynn, Senior Engineer said that any questions he will bring to Bus Connects/NTA'S attention and the contact list for Bus Connects is included in the information circulated at meeting.

Proposal: Invitation to be extended to the NTA to attend an SPC Meeting.

Proposer: Cllr Stephen Stokes

Seconded: Ian McGahan.

Ian McGahan suggested the elected members from Baltinglass Municipal District should be invited to attend the meeting and asked for list of questions to be prepared. Joe Lane Director of services suggested list of questions should be collated from the full council of elected members.

Item No. 4 Presentations & Updates

(a) Marc Devereux, T/Director of Service, Emergency Response

No Changes to Emergency Services

Recruitment for Firefighters still ongoing and aim to have a compliment of 120 personnel.

Ian McGahan informed the committee that he put in a call to the out of hours call centre when there was a red weather warning on the 7th December 2024 to report a safety hazard. He received a call back four hours later. Joe Lane, Director of Services said we are currently reviewing our call out policy.

Cllr Stephen Stokes asked if there was an update for the new fire stations in Baltinglass and Dunlavin. Marc Devereux confirmed that the projects have gone out to tender.

(b) John Bowes Senior Engineer, Transportation Projects/National Roads Projects/NTA Bus P&R/Greenways.

Cllr Stephen Stokes thanked John for his presentation

Cllr Danny Alvey asked if there was any possibility that the Blessington Greenway could still go ahead after it was refused by An Bord Pleanála, and the decision of the board, would there be any implications for the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway if there are any SAC (Special Area of Conservation) or SPA (Special Protection Area).

John Bowes informed the committee that WCC are still discussing the Blessington Greenway with the TII and awaiting their view if it can go ahead as localised trails. Joe Lane confirmed that no funding would be allocated if it was not a Greenway. WCC is looking at the various options for the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway and are assessing routes that are landward and seaward of the railway line.

Cllr Joe Behan expressed his disappointment on the decision to close the Herbert Road access off the N11/M11 for the Bus Priority Interim Scheme and of which has been rejected by members of the public. He also asked what other roads will have access closed to the N11/M11 of which John Bowes responded and explained the rationale for the preferred option. A number of accesses are proposed to be closed. The closure of Herbert Road is mitigated by the significant major upgrade to Junction 7 proposed. Cllr Joe Behan was not satisfied with the answer he received and requested that this be noted.

Cllr Joe Behan also asked about the Noise Mitigation measures in Kilmacanogue.

John Bowes informed the committee that TII are directly appointing a contractor to complete the works. WCC continue to follow up with TII regarding the timeframe for completion.

Cllr Stephen Stokes commented on the Walkway from Bray to Kilmacanogue, and of which Cllr Joe Behan asked if Bray Elected members will have a say in the decision making. John Bowes answered that an EIA procedure was required but it would still have to go to Public Consultation. Cllr Stephen Stokes suggested that a presentation should be made to Bray Municipal District elected members.

(c) Michael Flynn Senior Engineer, Non-National Roads/Active Travel

(i) Speed Limits. (Report circulated)

Michael Flynn informed the Committee that work on speed limits will be ongoing till June 2025

(ii) Report on resourcing Public Lighting in-house. (Report circulated)

Michael Flynn gave an update on the current Public lighting faults, and informed the Committee that a Senior Executive Engineer had been appointed to assist with Public lighting maintenance and liaise with Killaree Lighting Services. Three electricians are currently working on the network, and a full time electrician to be appointed to Wicklow County Council. A System has been put in place by the administration team in the Transportation office to record and answer queries from the general public, Elected Members and Deputies.

Cllr Shane Langrell commented that areas in Ashford (Ashford Downs and Mount Alto) were without public lighting for seven months and could this be looked at.

(iii) Report on resourcing Road Marking in-house (Report circulated)

Michael Flynn informed the Committee that line marking requires highly trained staff who would be working in live traffic; he explained how line marking works in line with road resurfacing works. He also said he would discuss with the Municipal Districts with regard to spending Discretionary allocations on line marking.

Cllr Joe Behan thanked Michael Flynn and WCC Staff for the detailed reports but did not agree with the conclusions. He suggested if the reports could be sent to all the Elected Members of WCC of which Cllr Stephen Stokes agreed. Cllr Danny Alvey also expressed that he did not agree with the conclusions.

Cllr Stephen Stokes informed the Committee that there was an issue where motorists are using a road as a "rat run" and speeding on the R772 Killadreenan to Newtown road and the L5046- N11 slip road to Killpedder. Traffic calming measures need to be looked at. Cllr Stephen Langrell responded that this was discussed at the meeting of Wicklow Municipal District.

Michael Flynn said he would look at funding for former National roads.

John Bowes said that as part of the Bus Interim Scheme, they would be looking at implementing restrictions. Closing southern access at the pub and shop in Kilpedder and making a bus route only, and closing the slip road at Willow Grove. For Junction 10 at Barry's bridge they are looking at closing it and making it a north bound route for cyclists. Currently at options stage and would need to go to public consultation, would either be a Section 38 of the Roads Act for traffic calming measures and a Part 8.

Item No. 5 Correspondence

No correspondence.

Item No. 6 A.O.B.

Cllr Joe Behan commented that motorists miss the junction for the Red Lane and take the first route, can this be made access only or improve signage. John Bowes said a submission could be made to Google to correct on Google maps.

Cllr Stephen Stokes commented on the allocation of €500,000 for bus shelters and suggested that a list should be created for the Active Travel team and to write to all the Elected Members for suggestions for bus shelter locations.

Michael Flynn responded that the District Engineers have been asked to carry out this exercise to list proposed locations. The cost of providing a bus stop is €15,000 and €25,000 for a bus stop with a shelter.

Cllr Orla Finn asked if works needed to go to tender. Michael Flynn responded that there is an NTA framework for Contractors.

Ian McGahan asked whose responsibility was it to remove bus stops as there are two in Bray for Finnegan's bus service which are no longer active. Michael Flynn responded that these were private bus stops and not in WCC remit to remove.

Cllr Orla Finn thanks the staff for the information packs prepared and distributed to the Committee.

Item No. 7 Date for next meeting

Monday 19th May, 2025 at 2:30 p.m. Würzburg Room, County Buildings.

Record of Proposals

Invitation to be extended to the NTA to attend an SPC Meeting.

Proposer: Cllr Stephen Stokes

Seconded: Ian McGahan.

Signed: _____

**Cllr Stephen Stokes,
Cathaoirleach.**

Date: _____