



Minutes of Transportation, Water & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Monday 25th September, 2023 @ 2.30pm in the Wurzburg Room, County Buildings

Present:	Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Derek Mitchell Cllr. Joe Behan Cllr. Vincent Blake Margaret Coughlan, Trade Union ICTU Éanna Gallagher, Environment/Conservation Tomás Peare, Development Construction Donal Murray, Business Commercial
Staff:	Leonora Earls, DOS Linda Healy, SEO John Bowes, SE Aidan Dempsey, CFO Mark O'Neill AO Vivienne Killeen, SO
Apologies:	Cllr. Irene Winters Micheal Flynn, SE
Vacant:	Agriculture Farming

Item 1: To note the minutes of 25th April 2023

Proposed by Joe Behan and seconded by Derek Mitchell.

Item 2: All-Island Strategic Rail Review Public Consultation for Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Submission to All –Island Strategic rail review prepared by Cllr. Derek Mitchell was distributed to members of the SPC

This Plan does not provide for a Greystones DART frequency increase as was planned. It also provides a worse service south of there by stopping the Rosslare trains at Greystones and making passengers change. This is a retrograde Plan for a rapidly expanding area. Both of these aspects need changing in the Plan.

Cllr. Joe Behan complimented Cllr. Mitchell on his work and knowledge of railways and seconded his submission.

Leonora Earls said that the study of railways in Co. Wicklow were moving to planning stage and battery operated trains to Wicklow if the members were agreeable to include this in the submission.

Cllr. Joe Behan stated that the level crossing to close in Bray was not agreeable, and sought an update on the DART + Coastal South-

Leonora Earls said a non-statutory public consultation statutory publication would be hopefully held towards the end of 2023.

Cllr. Derek Mitchell spoke about the limits of Bray Head and Leonora earls said documentation (The Jacobs Report) would be included in the submission

Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald stated that the current service was not a good service, and there was standing room only at times, would need to make trains 8 carriages long and 3 x8 carriage trains at rush hour.

Leonora Earls said that it should be pointed out to Jim Mead (CEO Irish Rail), the potential for road users to move to a rail service.

The submission would be sent before the closing date for submissions, 29th September, 2023.

Item 3: NTA Schemes Update

In the absence of Michael Flynn Leonora Earls gave an update of Projects to date.

- **Arklow North and Arklow South Cycle and Pedestrian Schemes**, are near completion and should be off site next month.
- **Bray Plaza** –Contract to be signed with Contractor. Legal agreements to be signed, hope to be on site at end of the year.
- **Wicklow Active Travel Pathfinder Projects** - Provision of new and improved pedestrian and cycle facilities along Marlton Road, Rocky Road, R-750 and Station Road to provide strategic routes to Wicklow Train Station. Baseline Assessment and Rapid Build Options Report to be prepared by DBFL and issued to NTA.

- **Safe Routes to Schools –**
St. Kevin's National School, Greystones; St. Johns Senior National School, Arklow; SS Michael and Peter Junior School, Arklow. – Some projects have started.

- **DART+ Coastal South – email from Christopher Bradish - Arup**
As an update on DART+ Coastal South, our emerging preferred option remains as per what was presented to Wicklow Co Council back in January. Works have progressed slowly and we are currently aiming to hold our first non-statutory public consultation on DART+ Coastal South towards the end of 2023 or early in 2024 where details of the emerging preferred option will be presented to the public for their feedback.

- **RLR improvement projects**
Additional money received from DTTAS for Restoration Improvement works, and money divided out between the districts, Restoration Improvement works now near completion and Restoration Maintenance works were completed in August with 450sqm of road surface repaired.

- **Public Lighting.**
Tender has gone out for new Public lighting contract in conjunction with PLEEP.

- **Speed Limit signs.**
Priority has been given to erect signs

- **Bridges**
The Bridge crew has completed repair and maintenance works at 10 bridges to date.

- **Machinery**
Works continue on the maintenance of council vehicles, plant and machinery. Winter maintenance machines are currently being prepped for the winter maintenance season. Preparations are also being made to trial HVO fuel in vehicles.

- **Utrecht Trip**
Staff and members of Wicklow County Council will be travelling to Utrecht in October in order to experience Dutch cycling infrastructure first hand, in order to gain a deeper understanding of Dutch urban planning and transport infrastructure. The Trip will be 100% funded by the NTA.

Cllr. Vincent Blake said there were issues with repairs being carried out to Public lighting, Enerveo who held the current PL contract offered a poor service, and there was a lot of dissatisfaction.

Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald said a lot of lights out in the Arklow Area, and there needs to be a public campaign to let the public know in how to report faulty lights.

3: TII Funded Projects

John Bowes gave an update (see attached presentation).

N11/M11 Junction 4 to 14 Improvement Scheme still remains suspended due to lack of funding, the preferred option Bus priority interim scheme has now been identified and a further public event was held in the Glenview hotel on the 12th September, and submissions to be submitted before the 13th October 2023.

N11 Parallel Service road at Kilmacanogue

Noise assessment – some Residents have been consulted on design options for noise barriers and others will be consulted shortly.

N11/M11 Bus Park and Ride Schemes. Part 8 Public Consultation commenced on 23rd August 2023, with a closing date of 4th October 2023.

N11 J11 Kilpedder AA & EIA Screening reports being prepared

M11 J16 Ashford / Rathnew AA & EIA Screening reports being prepared and Part 8 public consultation commencing late 2023/early 2024.

N11 Pavement Works by the MMARC N11 surfacing works between J8 and J14 have been completed by the maintenance contractor. Further surfacing works have commenced between J5 and J7 on the N11/M11 until mid-October 2023. Works are carried out at night to minimise traffic disruption.

N81 Knockroe Bend Realignment

The tenders for the Per Cent Art Feature are being procured by the Arts Office. The preferred feature has been selected pending the completion of the final assessment stage .

N81 Irishtown West, Whitestown Lower, Hangman's Bend and Tuckmill Lower "N81 Four Studies"

Following completion of Phase 1 feasibility study (N81 Four Studies), the following two projects are being progressed: -

- N81 Whitestown Lower Project
- N81 Hangman's Bend and Tuckmill Project

N81 Rural Traffic Calming & Bus Stop at Hollywood

The scheme now comprises a rural traffic calming scheme with bus stops. The option for a parking facility has been deferred from the current scheme as TII opposed its access from the N81. TII have suggested that suitable parking locations should be accessed from the regional/local road network.

It was agreed that parking should be considered separately so as not

To delay the delivery of the rural traffic calming and bus stop scheme.

N81 Pavement Capital Works

A contractor has been appointed to complete resurfacing works of 1km of the N81 between Tuckmill and Saundersgrove.

Kilmacanogue to the Southern Cross AT Greenway

The EIA screening concluded that an EIAR is required given that the proposed development will result in the potential for significant impacts to arise on environmental receptors including Biodiversity and Landscape and Visual Amenity.

Blessington Greenway

Given the need to conduct comprehensive additional surveys and generate a substantial volume of supporting material, a submission deadline in Jan 2024 has been agreed with An Bord Pleanála

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

Three events are scheduled to display the route options and the emerging preferred route. The information will be available online from Sept 28th on the project website and the WCC Consultation Hub.

Wicklow to Greystones Greenway

Currently progressing Phase 2: Options Selection

Preparing the material for public consultation on the route options.
a non-statutory public consultation on route options will be scheduled.

Eanna Gallagher asked when an EIAR would start on the Kilmacanogue Greenway

Cllr. Vincent Blake stated the population in Blessington had increased and roads need to be upgraded, Wicklow County Council need to have a consultation with South Dublin County Council.

Cllr. Derek Mitchell said that closing two junctions at Enniskerry and Kilcrouney will impact with extra traffic and how will it cope with current volumes of traffic.

Cllr Joe Behan said with regard to the proposed junctions being closed at Bray and Enniskerry, a bus lane on the M11 is not going to work. He also asked who would be looking at the submissions and who would make the recommendations.

He also thanked John Bowes, SE, on the work he carried out on noise mitigation.

He also called for it not to be repeated with the Kilmacanogue Greenway as what happened with the Blessington Greenway where the elected members were not consulted.

Leonora Earls said the members will be consulted on it.

Margaret Coughlan said the situation with the N11/M11 and volumes of traffic was impacting on people working in the health sector. People won't travel to Wicklow because of travel issues, and roles in the health sector in Wicklow cannot be filled.

5 Other Road Projects and operations Update

Tomás Peare informed the meeting that there is no yellow lining on the approach road to St. Kevin's school, in Greystones and the road is used as a car park; he also mentioned the speed bumps in Greystones need to be repainted.

Enquiries would be made to the District Engineer in Greystones.

Cllr. Joe Behan asked if Capital Levies could be invested in footpaths,

Leonora Earls said that Brian Gleeson, Finance Officer needed to decide on what monies would be made available.

Cllr Derek Mitchell said the road markings in Greystones were very bad and difficulties in staff securing contractors to do works.

6. Fire Services Policy Update

Aidan Dempsey gave an update (presentation attached).

Progress report on new Fire Stations, Baltinglass and Dunlavin.

Industrial action by retained firefighters concluded.

EU Course for Civil Protection experts to take place in Glenview Hotel from 2nd October.

A new Fire engine for Bray to be delivered in October, 2023.

7. Water Services Policy Update

John Bowes gave an update (presentation attached)

Uisce Éireann now has full accountability for the delivery of water services; water services staff will continue to be WCC Employees unless they avail of the option to join Uisce Éireann.

8. AOB

9. Next meeting

Monday, 11th December 2023 at 11:30 am in the Würzburg room, County Buildings.

Signed: Pat Fitzgerald
Cathaoirleach

Dated 25/9/2023