

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

Monday 30th January, 2023 @ 2.30pm in the Council Chamber, County Buildings

Present: Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Derek Mitchell
Cllr. Joe Behan
Cllr. Irene Winters
Cllr. Vincent Blake
Margaret Coughlan, Tade Union ICTU
Éanna Gallagher, Environment/Conservation

Staff: Leonora Earls, DOS
Helena Dennehy, SEO
Michael Flynn, SE
John Bowes, SE
Aidan Dempsey, CFO
Mark O'Neill AO
Vivienne Killeen, SO

Apologies: Tomás Peare, Development Construction
Donal Murray, Business Commercial

Non Attendance: Pat Dunne, Agriculture Farming

Item 1: To note the minutes of 5th October 2022

Proposed by Derek Mitchell and seconded by Vincent Blake.

Item 2: NTA Schemes Update

Presentation by Michael Flynn (attached). Cllr. Derek Mitchell welcomed the presentation and the importance of the NTA work in Co Wicklow, but looked at the possibility of more train services to Dublin City. Michael Flynn said that there is no room at present for more trains from South Wicklow to Dublin the whole rail line network would need to be looked at.

Cllr. Derek Mitchell said there is no priority for Express Buses on the N11/M11 and no proper access for people from South Wicklow to the N11 for buses and commuters using cars.

Cllr. Joe Behan asked if there were more details about the Luas coming to Bray, Michael Flynn said that the Luas was part of the Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2021- 2029. Cllr Behan also asked if there were plans for Footpath renewal in Bray, Michael Flynn said this was not in the remit of the NTA and there was at present no funding available.

Cllr. Vincent Blake said there was need for additional outdoor staff; due to staff retiring also County roads need to be repaired and receiving complaints on a regular basis about potholes. He also asked about applying for extra funding and if we could apply through the CLÁR Programme. Michael Flynn said that an outdoor recruitment campaign has been advertised and the NNR Crew has also been increased to a team of 12 employees. Michael said he would talk to Carlow County Council about their CLÁR projects.

Vincent Blake asked about the N81- Blessington by pass, Michael Flynn said it was moving forward and Wicklow County Council is talking to landowners.

Anna Gallagher asked if Active Travel reports were available and Michael Flynn said he would get in contact with the NTA Communications officer to check.

3: TII Funded Projects

John Bowes gave an update (see attached presentation).

Irene Winters said she was disappointed about the news that funding for the N11/M11 Junction 4 to 14 on the N11/M11 aimed at alleviating congestion and improving safety – is currently on hold as no funding was allocated to Wicklow County Council to continue the design process . Cllr Joe Behan also said this was devastating news, and called for the Chief Executive of the TII to be invited to the next Council meeting to discuss. Commuters are badly affected and the situation will only get worse. Cllr Derek Mitchell echoed the comments of Cllr Winters and Cllr Behan, and said Traffic is going to be added to with new housing schemes projects.

John Bowes said that the N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme would now continue to be progressed, but no preferred options yet for SS-B, and TII indicated that they would continue to finance this scheme.

Ms Leonora Earls said that WCC were pushing for measures to be implemented from the main scheme Junction 4 to 14 to the N11/M11 Bus Priority Interim Scheme.

Cllr Vincent Blake said there was no reference to the N81 to Tallaght project and asked John Bowes will this be upgraded. John said that the Tallaght to Hollywood scheme continues to be raised at TII meetings, but no funding has been provided to continue work on design.

Cllr Joe Behan said there was no progress on noise mitigation since the last meeting and asked John Bowes if funding was going to be made available. John Bowes said there was a delay in allocations of funding from TII

4. Other Road Projects and operations Update

Cllr Vincent Blake said there have been no repairs being carried out to Public Lighting in his area.

Leonora Earls advised that Public lighting is a challenge at present, and Enerveo the public lighting contractor are working on getting repairs done in the County. Pat Fitzgerald said there was a big improvement on repairs in the Arklow Area.

Cllr Vincent Blake asked about the Arklow to Shillelagh project. Leonora Earls said that progress is being made and Agronomists have been appointed to carry out consultancy works.

Cllr Blake also asked if rural transport could be discussed at the next meeting.

5. Fire Services Policy Update

Aidan Dempsey gave an update (presentation attached).

Aidan Dempsey said that the design for the new fire stations in Baltinglass and Dunlavin would be consistent, but costs will be taken into consideration when designs go to tender. He talked through the plans and facilities of the new stations and said he would be talking to the Consultants again in a few weeks.

Cllr Vincent Blake asked what was the time frame for the build of the new stations, and were there any plans for the old fire stations.

Aidan Dempsey confirmed that he hoped it would be next year for builds to start, and the old fire stations would be handed back to the Municipal District.

Cllr Behan mentioned there was concerns about retained fire fighters and planned industrial action and would Local Authorities be given funding for fire stations to be manned during the day. Aidan Dempsey said the National review of retained fire fighters was ongoing, and this will not be determined at local level

Cllr Behan also asked if we now have two Fire crews in Bray, Aidan confirmed that there are not two fire crews in Bray and they still rely on Greystones and DunLaoire fire crews to assist them.

6. Water Services Policy Update

Cllr Joe Behan asked about the staffing situation with Irish water, if staff opted to stay working in the local Authority, would they be offered job opportunities within Wicklow County Council, and if they opted to stay working with Irish Water, where would their work location be.

Helena Dennehy confirmed that staff wishing to remain working with Wicklow County Council would be moved as vacancies arise with the Council, and this would apply to both admin staff and outdoor workers.

Staff who opt to work with Irish water, location will remain the same but will be working on moving out to new offices

8. AOB

Helena Dennehy asked for proposed policies to be discussed at the next meeting

9. Next meeting

17th April 2023 at 2:30pm

SIGNED: _____

Pat Fitzgerald

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATED: _____

30/1/2023