



Minutes

Transportation, Infrastructure Delivery & Emergency Services

Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Monday 16th February 2026 at 2.30pm, Würzburg Room, County Buildings

- Present:**
- Cllr. Stephen Stokes, Cathaoirleach
 - Cllr Pat Fitzgerald
 - Cllr. Joe Behan
 - Cllr Shane Langrell
 - Cllr Orla Finn
 - Cllr. Danny Alvey
 - Ian McGahan, Trade Union
 - Tomás Peare, Development Construction
 - Mary Catherine Murphy, Agriculture/Farming
 - Eanna Gallagher, Environment/ Conservation
- Staff:**
- Joe Lane, DOS
 - Jackie Carroll, DOS
 - Linda Healy, SEO
 - John Bowes, SE
 - Michael Flynn, SE
 - Mark O'Neill, AO
 - Vivienne Killeen, SO
- Apologies:**
- Matthew Hudson, Business and Commercial
 - Deirdre McCormack, Social Inclusion

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Stephen Stokes thanked all the staff of Wicklow County Council for all the work carried out during the extreme weather.

Item No 1. To note the minutes of Meeting held on 17th November 2025.

Proposed by: Cllr Orla Finn
Seconded by: Cllr Danny Alvey

Item No 2. To discuss the requirement for each SPC to have a 'Multi Annual Work Programme' in place by 23rd March 2026.

Linda Healy, SEO discussed the SPC Multi Annual Work Programme and Preparation of the Section 26 Operational Plan for the Fire Services to be included.

Cllr Joe Behan asked if a work programme for public lighting should be included and asked if it could be looked at. Michael Flynn, SE confirmed that there is Public Lighting policy and he would circulate to the Committee.

Ian McGahan asked if the work programme would be in place to 2029 and Linda Healy confirmed that it could be updated if needed.

Cllr Danny Alvey asked if there is a list of policies that may need to be reviewed after 5 years of which Joe Lane, DOS said that there is a list of policies under the SPC and should be reviewed and kept up to date.

Cllr Joe Behan said that development of the rail infrastructure should also be included.

Action for the next SPC meeting in May 2026, to look at the Climate Action Plan and the Corporate Plan.

Item No 3. To discuss the preparation of a policy for 'Roadside Memorials'

Linda Healy discussed the preparation of a policy for Roadside Memorials and said it should be incorporated into the Civic Memorial Policy. Linda Suggested that it be put back on the agenda for the May meeting before it goes to the Corporate Policy Committee.

Cllr Joe Behan welcomed the policy and thanked Linda for preparing the draft policy.

Cllr Stephen Stokes asked if there would be a public consultation for the policy and if there is a national policy directive. Linda Helay responded that there would be no public consultation and yes there is a national policy in place but needs to be looked at.

Item 4. To receive a presentation from Michael Flynn on the delivery of the 2026 Roads Programme & recent weather damage to the roads network.

Cllr. Stephen Stokes thanked Michael Flynn, SE for his presentation.

Michael Flynn informed the Committee that DoT funding for RLR should be allocated in the coming week, funding from the NTA has been received and there is an allocation of €200,000 for pedestrian crossings in the districts and a list to be prepared.

Cllr Orla Finn asked what the costs were to install pedestrian crossings. Michael Flynn informed the meeting that it depended on what type of crossing is required, as they are site specific. A road assessment must be carried out to determine what type of crossings are needed and ESB costs would be included also for lights to be connected and energised.

Cllr Shane Langrell asked what measures were in place to deal with overgrown hedges after the hedge cutting season ends on the 28th February. Michael Flynn confirmed that under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993, Wicklow County Council can serve notices requiring landowners to cut or remove vegetation that poses a danger for road users.

Cllr Shane Langrell also discussed that there were no lifebuoys on the bridges in Roundwood. Michael Flynn said that there was a map that showed the locations of lifebuoys and would look at it.

Cllr Stephen Stokes asked about roads policing and in particular speeding in villages. Michael Flynn confirmed the speed limit in urban areas was 30km and WCC could carry out speed count surveys and present to AGS as evidence of speeding.

Eanna Gallagher asked if there was an assessment carried out as to where surface water originated from that caused roads to flood during the severe weather events. Michael Flynn said that some roads in the Tinahely area that the origin of water came from adjoining fields, and that there is a lot more work to be done in repairing damaged roads and further drainage works.

Cllr. Joe Behan thanked the staff of WCC for all the work carried out during the severe weather events and in particular could the outdoor staff, Fire Service and Civil Defence staff be officially commended in some way.

Cllr Joe Behan also discussed the recent dredging of the Swan and Dargle rivers, and Bray Harbour and that material removed needs to be replenished and a need to be conscious of the wildlife community. Michael Flynn responded that this was a matter for the OPW and the Environment Directorate. Jackie Carroll confirmed that the flood mitigation works would not affect the wildlife and Bray Municipal District were working with members of the public on this.

Cllr Danny Alvey welcomed the funding for pedestrian crossings and asked if surface water and Hedge-cutting could be worked into the Multi Annual Work Programme.

Item No 5 To receive Presentations & Updates from:

(a) Jackie Carroll, Director of Service, Emergency Response

Cllr Stephen Stokes thanks Jackie Carrol for her updates and commended the Fire Service and the Civil Defence for their work during the severe weather events.

Cllr Joe Behan discussed the fire service training centre in Bray, that it was a vital asset and a need to retain it. Also, there is a need for Bray Fire service to be a full-time service.

Jackie Carroll, DOS stated that procurement had commenced for consultants to assess the training centre and that she was making a case for it to be retained.

Ian McGahan asked if Bray Service operates in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown area of Bray, and if it is possible for warning siren announcements to warn communities of impending flooding, if this could be looked at. Jackie Carroll confirmed that Bray Fire station covers sections of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown area, specifically northern parts of Bray/Old Connaught that fall outside the Wicklow County boundary, due to its proximity as the fastest responding service.

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

Cllr. Stephen Stokes thanked John Bowes for his presentation.

Cllr Joe Behan Welcomed the decision that the closure of the Herbert Road would not be progressing and stressed that a bus lane on the hard shoulder of the N11 was not a good idea. He also asked for confirmation on what other sections of the M11 Bus Priority scheme were not being progressed.

John Bowes responded that preliminary intervention measures will not be progressed at this point in time as they are considered to provide lower bus priority benefits: -

- Junction 6 to Junction 7 Southbound (bus priority measures, active travel facility & junction closures including junction of N11 and Herbert Road)
- Junction 8 to Junction 9 Southbound (active travel facilities)
- Junction 9 to Junction 8 Northbound (bus priority measures)

Cllr Orla Finn asked what the initial period for the road closure of the Chapel Road pedestrian and cycle scheme.

John Bowes responded that the initial closure date was to the 1st May 2026 but had now been extended to the end of June 2026, there has been in delays in the project where accommodation works had to be changed.

Cllr Joe Behan commented that the Greenways projects were being managed in a way that members of the public do not have an input.

Cllr Shane Langrell informed the meeting that he was supportive of greenways but in relation to the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway he was not in agreement with the proposed route where it was going through lands that are floodplains and used for agricultural purposes, He is not in agreement to CPO these lands, and the preferred route should be coastal.

John Bowes responded that the emerging preferred route was outside the SAC and SPA to avoid direct impacts on these protected sites. A Coastal route was unlikely to succeed as it would directly impact on the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the Special Protection Area (SPA) and a route that incorporated the regional road would directly impact on residential and commercial properties. The emerging preferred option is the only practical route available. The Greenway concept was community led and supported and petitioned by the Public, to deliver benefits for Recreation, Tourism, Community and Economic activity.

Cllr Stephen Stokes commended Cllr. Shane Langrell for highlighting landowners' concerns.

Mary Catherine Murphy sought clarification regarding concerns from landowners that their submissions would be excluded from the final report. She noted that landowners had reportedly been informed of this exclusion and requested confirmation on the matter.

John Bowes confirmed that all submissions will be included in the report that have been received and will have meetings with landowners. He would also look for clarification on where the source of this information originated from.

Cllr. Danny Alvey asked would the submissions be available to the Councillors.

John Bowes confirmed that a report will be compiled by the Consultants, but no date yet when it is available. Cllr Danny Alvey asked at what stage is the Wicklow Port Access Road Link Scheme. Michael Flynn informed the meeting that the design work is complete, and a tender is being prepared for construction stage.

Eanna Gallagher asked what management is in place for the Fassaroe park & ride carpark and if nature-based solutions can be considered for the Ashford park & ride scheme. Maintenance to be carried out by the NTA.

Item No 6. To discuss the 2026 Bus Stop Enhancement Programme.

Presentation from Larry Roe, Senior Executive Engineer

Cllr Stephen Stokes thanked Larry Roe for his presentation.

Cllr Danny Alvey asked about new shelters at bus stops, Larry Roe confirmed that a bus stop must have five scheduled stops a day to qualify for a shelter and the location layout and sight lines would also need to be considered if suitable.

Cllr. Stephen Stokes circulated the bus stop enhancement programme recommendations and asked the Committee to review and provide feedback. He also thanked Deidre McCormack and the PPN team for their input to the programme.

Allocation of €500,000 per year for bus stop improvements.

Item No. 7 To circulate list of Circular Letters received from Department of Transportation.

- List Circulated to the Committee.

Item No. 8 Correspondence

Linda Healy informed the committee that a letter of invitation to attend an SPC meeting was sent to Jean O’Sullivan, CEO, Bus Éireann on the 19th November 2025, of which a response had not been received. Linda to follow up with a reminder.

Item No. 9 Any Other Business

Cllr Joe Behan enquired about an L.I.S. (Local improvement Scheme) for the Old Downs Hill. Mark O’Neill confirmed the list of applications had been sent to the Municipal District Engineers and would follow up on it.

Item No. 10 Date for next meeting.

Monday 18th of May 2026 at 2:30 p.m.

Signed: _____
Cllr. Stephen Stokes,
Cathaoirleach.

Date: _____

