

<p style="text-align: center;">TRANSPORTATION, WATER EMERGENCY SERVICES SPC Strategic Policy Committee meeting 13th April, 2021 via Zoom</p>

Present:

Cllr Derek Mitchell, Chair
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr Joe Behan
Cllr. Vincent Blake
Tim Morgan, Environment/Conservation/PPN
Tomas Peare, Development Construction
Colm Lavery, Director of Services, Transportation, Water & Emergency Services
Michael Flynn, Senior Engineer,
John Bowes, Senior Engineer
Aidan Dempsey, Chief Fire Officer
Deirdre Forde, A/ Senior Executive Engineer
Helena Dennehy, Senior Executive Officer
Allyson Minion, Administrative Officer
Vicky O Neill, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies:

Margaret Coughlan, Trade Union

Non-Attendance:

Pat Dunne
Donal Murray
Cllr. Irene Winters

Item 1: To note the minutes of 12th January, 2021

Cllr. Derek Mitchell opened the meeting. Minutes of 12th January 2021 were noted and agreed.

Item 2: NTA Schemes Update

Michael Flynn, Senior Engineer, (MF) gave overview of the NTA projects to date (see note 1) Further updates were given to committee on:

- Connecting Ireland (see note 2)
- GDA Cycle Network Plan (see note 3)
- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme (See note 4)

Safe Routes to School - All schools have been contacted directly and must apply themselves under the scheme.

Under the initiative €26,000 has already been allocated and used in Blessington and Kilbride. Committee raised concerns on deadline and members endeavoured to contact their local schools. It was noted that the application is straight forward and does not take an excessive amount of time to complete.

The initiative was welcomed by all.

NTA Projects - CL noted to committee that update and consultation on all NTA schemes had been presented to each Municipal District

Some projects are done centrally and the members were not kept up to date on that is happening, and it was noted that presentations to MDs were very useful. The Chair indicated his view that cycle ways and footpaths welcome but the preference towards cycling should be a key area in order to displace cars. Extra bus and rail services are required.

Item 3: GDA Transport Strategy Review & Update from Cllr. Mitchell as representative on steering group/advisory group

See note 5 previously distributed.

Steering group/advisory group - Update from Cllr. Mitchell – invited to first meeting and will continue to put strong case forward for Wicklow.

There is also official representation for WCC by CL & MF on this group.

Dart plus and further rail proposals (note 5)

Chair - Concerned that Wicklow commuters will have to change trains to get to Wicklow Town or Arklow and that a more frequent service is required from Bray to Wicklow and that the trains available from Wicklow to Dublin. It was noted to committee that existing services will be maintained and the shuttle study is in its infancy.

Item 4 – Update TII Funded Projects (see note 6)

John Bowes, Senior Engineer (JB) gave update on above projects.

Cllr. Behan raised queries in relation to overbridge and the turn off at Kilmacanogue. More traffic using the slip road and causing excessive noise, could noise abatement measures be put in place? – JB noted WCC/TII are looking into noise abatement measures and have met with landowners in relation to same.

Concerns raised about occupiers of Kilmurray Cottages about the number of cars using their road as a shortcut. Is there funding for traffic calming measures? – JB - there is a 30k speed limit currently at this location but the issue of ramps will be raised with the relevant Municipal District and the Gardaí in relation to enforcement as this were under their remit.

The footpath from Kilmacanogue to Bray has been raised with TII

Traffic Counts & Covid impact were discussed.

Noted significant reduction over last 12 months covid related, with a 50% reduction noted. While a 50% reduction in traffic in 2020 was evident every effort needed to maintain same. **M11/N11** main route and also additional freight expected to/from Roslare and cannot determine future impact of home working etc. Committee observed that the current reduction in traffic may impact on M11 design, but noted that with increased population projections road way would no doubt be needed.

Bus Priority Scheme start and end = Loughlinstown roundabout to Kilmac

Ballyronan Junction – study will likely be included in Greystones Transport study

Works in west at N81 acknowledged 7 update on Blessington relief road given.

Item 5 – Fire Services Policy Update

Aidan Dempsey, CFO gave update.

3m allocated under capital programme

Pre-Determined Attendance – review commenced – any changes in PDAs will likely reflect in a cost adjustment and have to be considered by elected members as part of annual budget process.

Community Fire Safety will be accelerated later in 2021, covid situation dependent.

Building Control now based in Bray FS. Building control deal with parts A-C of the Building Control Regulations. 90% of work is new builds. Fire Prevention deal with part B & M of regs.

Full time fire service – AD CFO has produced an up to date report. National Emergency Management has commissioned Dr Brian Sweeney to carry out an independent review of requirement for full time service. CL followed up with Dept prior to SPC and report is expected shortly. It was noted to the committee that when independent review is completed and views of Dept are received the findings will come to back to SPC in first instance.

The work of Fire Services across the County was acknowledged and held in high regard.

Item 6 – Water Services Policy Update

Helena Dennehy SEO (HD) gave update.

As end of SLA in the next 18 months where would current Irish Water staff be relocated to? - HD under current legislation, staff would be transferred but that is not conclusive. As per the Minister there would be no forced transfers. The process and protocols around how the

end of SLA will happen are yet to be determined.

It was noted by the committee members that the work of WCC Water staff was excellent and efficient in dealing with issues on the ground.

Item 7 – To note TWES Annual Service Delivery Plan

Helena Dennehy SEO (HD) gave update

Annual services delivery plan was presented to full Council Meeting on 12/4/21 which included operational plans and measures for 2021 - delivery plans, projected outcomes at high levels. These annual service plans are further supplemented at a local level with more detailed team plans across all service areas of TWES.

Item 8 – AOB

Committee reminded that each member to return their declaration forms with regard to the ethics register to Andrea Dunne, Eithics Registrar. This requirement relates to both elected and non-elected members of this SPC.

Item 8 – Next meeting

Date for the next meeting is 6th July, 2021 @9.30/2.30pm TBC

Minutes of Meeting of 13th April 2021 were noted and agreed by committee on 6th July 2021.