

DRAFT

TRANSPORTATION, WATER EMERGENCY SERVICES SPC
Strategic Policy Committee meeting 6th July, 2021 @ 9.30am via Zoom

Present:

Cllr Derek Mitchell, Chair
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr Joe Behan
Cllr. Vincent Blake
Tim Morgan, Environment/Conservation
Margaret Coughlan, Trade Union

Colm Lavery, Director of Services, Transportation, Water & Emergency Services
John Bowes, Senior Engineer, Roads
Aidan Dempsey, Chief Fire Officer
Conor Page, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Helena Dennehy, Senior Executive Officer
Allyson Minion, Administrative Officer
Vicky O Neill, Staff Officer
Pat Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer
Brian O Sullivan, Executive Engineer

Apologies:

Michael Flynn, Senior Engineer, Transportation, Water & Emergency Services
Tomas Peare, Development Construction

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 13th April noted and agreed.

Item 2: Update on Public Lighting/PLEEP & recent Dark Skies presentation

A written update was provided prior to meeting (information previously distributed). Pat Clarke, Senior Executive Engineer gave brief overview of proposed Wicklow Co Co guidance document that will be available later in the year and that this guidance will incorporate many elements of Dark Skies.

Observations of Committee:

- Dim & Trim and how this would work, and that safety is a priority
- Noted that the LED lights were better and more efficient.
- Concerns about the volume of street lights out of action and is anxious to get them back up and running for the winter. Colm Lavery advised that County Wicklow had the lowest figure for national average in relation to lights being out.
- Noted that set up of the public lighting team email of publiclighting2@wicklowcoco.ie email was working very well.
- Observations that some of the LED lights were too bright and member advised that each case was looked at individually and that sometimes the light can be re-directed.
- Noted that Dark Skies is better suited to areas of NPWS rather than rural/urban locations
- Where original LEDs are considered too bright, it was confirmed that it would not be in the plan at present to replace these

Helena Dennehy, Senior Executive Officer advised that the request from Climate SPC was to attend Dark Skies presentation and for this SPC to discuss if a policy required. This SPC committee confirmed that written update as provided to this committee be forwarded to Chair of Climate SPC with a note of confirmation that a guidance document is being prepared by WCC public lighting team and would be made available to the Climate SPC by the end of the year.

Item 3: NTA Schemes Update

Conor Page, A/Senior Engineer gave an update on NTA schemes (information attached).

Observations of Committee:

- As per cycling plan, the cycle path was too narrow up to Bray Head and needed to be widened.
- A list of the projects completed under the Sustainable Transportation Measures Grant (information attached).
- There is a need to have an input into the National Transport Plan.

Item 4 – GDA Transport Strategy Review & Update from Cllr. Mitchell as representative on steering/advisory group

Cllr. Mitchell gave update.

- Met 4 times to date
- Covers 7 different area LAs within the greater Dublin region
- Chair of each LA & chair of SPC are nominated representatives
- Colm Lavery & Michael Flynn also attend a technical committee

Item 5 – Update on TII funded Projects

John Bowes, Senior Engineer gave a brief update on TII projects.

Parallel Service Road – Completion date expected mid August, currently working on foul sewer diversion for Irish Water and gantrys are being installed in mid-July. The construction of the splitter islands will also commence in July.

Main m11/N11 J4 to J14 – It was hoped to announce the preferred option routes as soon as possible but need to be cognisant at this time of holiday period and that this may not suit for public consultation, now likely August/September.

Bus Priority Interim Project – Will be delivered in advance of main scheme and now a scheme funded by TII also

N81 – resurfacing works from Blessington to Russborough House to be carried out during July and August and smaller works at Hollywood Lower and Saunders Grove to Ballymacrow upper over will be completed in July. PL upgrade at Hollywood & Lambs junction funding received from TII at the end of June.

Observations of Committee:

- Query provision of footpath for Bray to Kilmac – confirmed that this will not be progressed by TII and will not form part of Parallel Service Road Scheme. The preferred offline route is being progressed as the Kilmac Greenway scheme. It was also noted that consultants were drafting a report on 4 possible greenway options and construction on such a project is at least next year.
- Query if it was a funding or safety issue that it could not progress and it was clearly highlighted that Speed limit at this location would increase to 100km/h and simply not safe for pedestrians for this reason and this accounts for TII non agreement to footpath.

Item 6 – Fire Services Policy update.

Aidan Dempsey, Chief Fire Officer gave an update on the Full Time Fire Service review. Slides/Report issued to committee following meeting.

Observations of Committee:

- A lot of detail within report
- Population projections for north Wicklow discussed
- Noted by committee that review of need for Full Time Fire Service is a matter for this SPC in the first instance and will be reviewed at this level however Members of Bray MD wish to be involved
- Meeting between Cllr Behan (Bray MD), Director & CFO will be organised at a future date to ensure matters concerning Bray MD can be brought back to MD from SPC workings.

Colm Lavery, Director of Services highlighted that what was presented this morning by CFO was previously discussed in detail at SPC meeting of September 2020 (recirculated to Committee following meeting). There are implications across the county in fire service provision. WCC Report submitted to NDFEM and we await their independent review. The decision / report of NDFEM is expected imminently and as soon as received will be circulated to this SPC for review and full and detailed discussion at next SPC.

Item 7 – Water Services Policy Update

Helena Dennehy, Senior Executive Officer advised that talks in relation to next steps for end of SLA between Irish Water and Las were ongoing but there was no recommendations as yet. SPC Committee will be kept briefed as information received.

Observations of Committee:

- Irish Water clinics for Elected members were not working and that after referring a case to IW no further action was taken.
- Clinics – Strategic issues were being raised by members and extremely difficult to get answers from Irish Water
- Issue in relation to ‘Do Not Consume’ water in Barndarrig had continued on for too long. Committee advised safe drinking water was a priority and that the matter had been brought to the attention of IW. It was advised that Irish Water hope to lift ‘Do Not Consume’ shortly but date was yet to be confirmed.

Item 8 – AOB

Speed Limit Review - advised that review was a six month process which was due to commence in Q4 this year.

Item 9 – Next meeting 12th October, 2021 at 9.30am