

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Transportation Policy / Mobility  
Management and Water Services held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2023**

**Present:** Cllr. Matt Doran (Chairman).

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, Barry Lynch,

**In Attendance:** Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services; Mr. Seamus Kavanagh, Senior Engineer; Brendan Sheahan, Executive Engineer; John Prendergast, Executive Engineer; Ken Boland, Senior Engineer, Claire Buckley, Administrative Officer.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Peter Cleere, Jim Mulhall, Ger Mooney, Cllr. Patrick O’Neill.

**1. Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising**

It was noted by Chairman Matt Doran that Ger Ferris and Gary Graham have resigned from the Committee.

The minutes of SPC2 meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2022 were adopted. Proposed by Cllr. Pat Dunphy and seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach.

**2. Radial Routes**

Brendan Sheahan presented to the meeting in relation to the Enhanced Pedestrian and Cyclist Facilities on the Radial Routes within Kilkenny City. Kilkenny County Council and the National Transport Authority (NTA) are in the processes of developing the urban cycling network within Kilkenny City along the key radial routes into and out of the city centre. A non-statutory public consultation was held in April to seek feedback and input on how these routes can best be designed to meet community needs. The submissions received were overwhelmingly positive. Scheme development process, Kilkenny are Phase 2, review of emerging preferred options and preparation for preliminary design. Key Constraints are space and traffic

- Stage 1: Assessment Process
- Shared Streets
  - Cycle Lanes
  - One-way cycle tracks

- Stage 2:
- Two-way cycle tracks
- Junction Types
- Cycle Friendly Roundabout
  - Protected Signalised Cycling Junction

1. Castlecomer Road Corridor
2. Hebron Road Corridor
3. Dublin Road Corridor
4. Bennettsbridge Road Corridor
5. Bohernatounish Road Corridor
6. Waterford Road Corridor
7. College Road Corridor
8. Granges Road Corridor
9. Dunningstown Road Corridor
10. Freshford Road Corridor

Tim Butler advised that approximately 6 years ago Kilkenny County Council first met with the NTA regarding the City Bus Service. The main focus of the NTA is larger Urban Centres.

Cllr. Matt Doran raised his concern that there could potentially be a loss of parking in some of the identified road corridors.

Cllr. Fidelis Doherty thanked the staff for the huge body of work that has been carried out. She asked if there were statistics to measure and where will people park their bicycles safely?

Brendan Sheahan advises that there are studies on this which are available and there will be bicycle parking at both ends.

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach expressed concern if emergency services need access does it cause difficulty? Is it potentially a 10-year programme, is it funded fully by NTA or match funding from Kilkenny County Council?

Brendan Sheahan advised that there was no issue in terms of emergency services. It would be a 10-year programme, funding is not guaranteed, at the end of a phase, the NTA advise on approval to move to next phase.

Cllr. Pat Dunphy welcomed this funding for the city but expressed concern if funding for this will be offered funding across the county, for a fair balance to everyone. Also, on match days in Kilkenny, how would car parking work?

Tim Butler noted the urban/rural divide, the NTA is more focused on urban high number users. Rural areas get other funding for example the Greenway and also the Callan one-way scheme is progressing under Active Travel.

Brendan Sheahan advised there is adequate parking within walking distance, this needs work to have it highlighted.

Cllr Deirdre Cullen noted that the towns with Mobility Management Plans, that Kilkenny County Council need to continue to focus on them. Also asked if there was going to be funding for schools for bicycle parking from this scheme. It was advised this is an infrastructure project but work is being done with the schools by Caitriona Corr the Cycle Officer for Kilkenny.

### **3. Loughmacask Local Area Plan**

Seamus Kavanagh presented to the meeting on the Loughmacask Local Area Plan and the infrastructure proposals.

He gave an overview of the Zoning & Permissions of the area, highlighting the issues of infrastructure deficit.

He outlined that objective R7 in the County development plan was a priority for the area. A route from the Kilmanagh road to the Tullaroan road and onto the Freshford road was essential for the area. The plan is to procure consultants in 2023 and provide a report on options to achieve the objective.

It was also advised that the proposed Kilkenny Northern Ring Road extension received an allocation of €100,000 this year. A Strategic Access Report (SAR) was submitted to the department, a number of queries were received and the most important element of the queries was the need for Kilkenny County Council to demonstrate how this road will benefit the city. It needs to link in with the SUMP and Active Travel, aiming to take heavy traffic away from the city centre for the benefit of the City centre.

Tim Butler noted that in the Western Environs and Northern Environs there is a lack of infrastructure, resulting in heavy goods vehicles having to come into city centre.

### **4. Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project -Eastern region (PLEEP)**

Ken Boland presented an update in relation to the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project.

The first design is due today in Callan/Thomastown approximately 200 lights, with installation planned for early July. The Programme for Kilkenny is by Municipal District as follows: Callan/Thomastown, Castlecomer, Kilkenny City & Piltown.

It was advised that the survey is in progress, over 6000 lights surveyed with another 5000 to complete. There are 9 surveyors which will increase to 12 surveyors.

Led Lights are energy efficient and environmentally safer. Heritage lights are being replaced by modern lights for these reasons.

Cllr. Fidelis Doherty when these lights are taken out of service, are they recycled? Ken advised that all lights are fully recyclable, dismantled and sent to a registered recycling centre. The new lights are designed for 25 years operation.

Barry Lynch commented that the Council should use this to enhance the public profile of the work showing the carbon reduction. It is an opportunity for Kilkenny

County Council to use PLEEP along with the Active Travel Project to highlight that there is a lot of work ongoing.

Cllr Pat Dunphy asked if every light in housing estates would be surveyed, replaced and the cost of same and if infill space will be identified.

Ken advised that the cost of a full pole is €2500, which is cheaper than the older poles.

Cllr Deirdre Cullen asked for clarification on funding to this PLEEP project.

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach queried is it was possible to compromise between heritage poles with LED.

Tim Butler stated that there is a lot of focus with a huge impact on the environment, Kilkenny is the lead authority on this and we should be highlighting same. Our sectoral emissions will reduce to 17%. Climate Action will be on this Agenda, we will be publicising the details.

The cost of a heritage light replacement is approximately €500/600 additional per light, it will be done in architectural heritage areas but all other estates will be replaced with LED lights.

#### **5. Braille Trail**

This will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **6. Broadband Update**

Tim Butler presented on the current position in relation to the rollout of Broadband for County Kilkenny was discussed. He commended the Council staff in both Roads and Planning on the work done in relation to S254 licences.

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach commented that he felt the communication between NBI and Kilkenny County Council has been very productive and it is important to continue this.

#### **7. AOB**

The next meeting was proposed and agreed to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 4pm and the preference of the committee is to have in-person meetings.

**This concluded the meeting.**