

MINUTES OF TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY & EMERGENCY SERVICES SPC

Date: 1 October 2020 COUNCIL CHAMBER

Attendance

CLIs Joe Neville, Colm Kenny, Angela Feeney, Anne Connolly, Nuala Killeen, and Mark Stafford were present. Cllr. Paul Ward was absent for the second meeting. In addition to myself, Cormac Browne (Agriculture/Farming) and Brian Purcell (Business/Commercial) also attended.

Minutes

At the start of the meeting, they proposed to adopt the minutes from June which had been circulated a few days previously. I had proposed an amendment as they had failed to make any reference to papers I had submitted to the Committee.

The amendment was not accepted as they were submitted prior to the actual meeting but the officials had forwarded the six June papers along with the six submitted in September to the "Traffic Management team". (*My comments - What I need to do is confirm that they will respond to it and in what timescale as the next meeting is in early November.*)

Tadhg McDonnell, Director of Services, gave another briefing.

- In relation to the electrification of the Maynooth line, Irish Rail is not proposing to extend it a further kilometre to Kilcock.
- Re M4, work on the extra lane of the Leixlip-Maynooth motorway is stopped at present. NTA have asked KCC to look at running buses on the hard shoulder which is good news for the environment.
- KCC has been talking to the NTA about LA staffing levels. The NTA is under resourced itself but they have made clear that KCC needs to achieve the numbers in terms of modal change.
- KCC proposes to bring in warrants to support change in junctions, roundabouts etc. (*My comments* Needing warrants is to support change is fine for some areas but is outdated if it is proposed to apply to active travel crossings).
- Nuala Killeen (Soc Dems) raised the issue of a problem with no policy for cycle facilities applying to Strategic Infrastructure projects which are decided by an Bord Pleanála. (*My comments- I need to follow this up.*)
- M4 – the section between Maynooth and Kilcock was resurfaced over the summer. It is unclear if this was with low noise or the traditional type of surfacing.

Declan Keogh, Road Safety/Cycling Officer/Sustainable Transport Officer gave a briefing:

- There are 28 school wardens, many of whom are elderly or retired which has implications for close contact with children because of Covid-19. There are approx. 106 primary schools in the County.
- Kildare Cycle Forum is to reconvene in November. Date and time TBC.
- A further 3 schools have been added to the existing 22, giving a total of 25 primary schools which are currently funded for Cycle Right training.
- DK showed a video film on bicycle theft

- School streets/zones were mentioned. I raised the issue of Academy Street in Kildare Town where after Covid-19 works, the road was made one way with no provision for cycling.

David Reel, Senior Executive Engineer, gave a briefing on Winter Salting:

- Almost €700 is spent on salting 680km of regional roads.
- No Main Streets, cycle facilities or area around schools are salted.

Work Programme

There was a discussion on the work programme. There was some more clarification on the proposed Work Programme. In an email to councillors and the Director of Services, I had made a number of suggestions. I also highlighted the issue of unreliability of bus and rail services for the disabled.

Next SPC Meeting

The next meeting is on 5th November.

Appendix List of Policy Papers Submitted to Committee

- Kildare Bike Account
- Pedestrian-Cyclist Counters
- Resilient Infrastructure
- Impact of active travel schemes
- Access to Cycle Facilities
- Filtered Permeability