**MINUTES OF TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY & EMERGENCY SERVICES SPC**

**Date: 5 November 2020**

**Attendance**

Clls Joe Neville, Colm Kenny, Angela Feeney, Anne Connolly, Nuala Killeen, Mark

Stafford and Paul Ward were present. In addition to myself, Brian Purcell (Business/Commercial) also attended.

*Officials*: Celine Barrett (A/Director of Services), Niall O’Riordan (A/Chief Fire Officer), Declan Keogh (Cycling Officer) & S. Cummings (Senior Engineer), Marie Kelly (ASO) & Pamela Pender (A/SEO).

**Meeting**

I received an invitation to the upcoming SPC meeting. The invitation referred to a physical meeting in the Council headquarters in Naas. I wrote to the council stating my objection to a physical meeting in view of the current lockdown and (to my surprise) the meeting was subsequently changed to a virtual one.

**Briefing from A/Director of Services**

Celine Barrett has replaced Tadgh McDonnell as Director. She outlined the reorganisation of the Transportation Department:

* Road Maintenance – John McGowan, Senior Engineer
* Road Design – Gerry Conlon, Senior Engineer
* Traffic & Sustainable Transport – Stephen Cummings, Senior Engineer

Stephen Cumming is going to be the key technical person among officials. The Director and S. Cummings had had a meeting with the NTA – the projects identified in the coming years will be based on the Greater Dublin Cycle Network which was published about 5 years ago.

In relation to the Fire Service, she stated that the site of the new Maynooth Fire Station is at Mullan Park.

**Work Plan**

In discussions on the Work Plan and his description of Kildare as a commuter county, Cllr. Neville stressed the importance of bus and train. On policy, he proposed the need for segregated cycle facilities between greenways and adjacent towns and villages.

Cllr. Anne Connolly also wanted a similar link between the greenway and nearby (named) forest in the centre of the county.

I spoke about the context of cycling in Kildare.

1. 2019 the NTA report that Kildare one of worst preforming local authority (of 11).
2. 2020 Kildare received €2.2M NTA funding – €1M for the Road Canal & Mill St (Maynooth) – no construction this year.
3. 2020 July Stimulus – In Kildare ticking the box for cycling to rural schools, cycling worsened in Maynooth, Kildare Town.
4. Inadequate Transport Strategies in Naas, Kildare Town, Maynooth
5. Low design standards – the current design manual is outdated and is to be revised next year.

I emphasised the need for high quality and cycle networks rather than corridors. I also raised the fact that I had submitted 12 policy papers on a range of issues.

Cllr. Neville suggested that the committee start with three subjects for the next meeting and proposed the following three

*(Note - I am not 100% sure that these are the three)*

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| **Policy**  | **Category** | **Description** |
| Policy 2 | Fish Eye | Policy on the use of ‘Fish Eye’ Mirrors on public roads. |
| Policy 8 | EV | Policy on Electric Vehicles in relation to free parking. |
| Policy 10 | Roundabouts | The naming of the roundabouts with historical links. It was agreed that the matter in relation to a county wide policy for the naming of roundabouts would be referred to the incoming Transportation Safety & Emergency Services SPC  |

I again raised the 12 papers that I had prepared. The Chair stated that they could be circulated. I replied that they had already been circulated to the councillors although not to the other two non-councillors. *(Note - I need to follow up on this)*

**AOB Kildare Cycle Forum**

At the previous meeting, the Cycling Officer stated that he would be arranging a meeting of the Cycling Forum in November. As there was no update, I pointed out that the matter should have been dealt with under Matters Arising. The Cycling Officer informed the meeting that an email would be sent out in the next couple of days and that a date had been fixed for later in the month.