

**MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**  
**STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**HELD ONLINE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**  
**ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 10.00am**

**I Láthair:**

**Baill:** Cllr. Peter Roche (Cathaoirleach)  
Cllr. Geraldine Donohue  
Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin  
Cllr. Declan Kelly  
Cllr. Jim Cuddy  
Cllr. Albert Dolan  
Mr. Diarmaid Kelly  
Mr. Tom Madden

**Oifigí:** Mr. Derek Pender, A/Director of Services  
Ms. Sajil Elwood, Assistant Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Mr. Damien Mitchell, Senior Engineer  
Ms. Eibhlin Curran, Administrative Officer

**Absent:** Cllr. Gerry King  
Mr. Martin Gibbons  
Mr. Kenny Deery

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Cllr. Roche commenced the meeting by welcoming Cllr. Declan Kelly, who replaced Cllr. Pat Hynes on the Committee, due to his recent retirement. Cllr. Roche on behalf of the Committee congratulated Pat Hynes on his retirement and thanked him for all his work as a member of the Committee and outlined that he was always a dignified and professional elected member.

**ITEM NO. 1 - MINUTES OF ROADS & TRANSPORTATION SPC MEETING HELD ON THE 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021.**

On the **Proposal** of Comh. Ó Curraoin and **Seconded** by Cllr. Jim Cuddy, the minutes of the meeting of the Transportation & Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021 were agreed and adopted.

**Matters arising:**

Cllr. Cuddy requested updates in relation to:

- the issue of the Bilingual signage on the M17
- cancelled Bus Route X20 Galway to Dublin.
- removal of signs at Rinville Pier

Comh. Ó Curraoin requested an update in relation to the issue of speed limits, near schools.

Mr. Kelly requested an update in relation to removing the prohibition signs and East Galway WWTP.

Mr. Pender advised that the matter of the prohibition signs will be looked at in the new year. He advised there is no mention of the East Galway WWTP in the current Draft County Development Plan. In relation to the issue of speed limits at school, the matter will be reviewed in 2022 as part of the Speed Limit Review, whereby Galway County Council will be advertising and seeking submissions. He advised that correspondence had been sent to the Minister of Transport in relation to the cancelled bus route and to date no response had been received.

Cllr. Cuddy advised that a designated bathing area at Rinville Pier, is what the public are looking for. Mr. Pender replied that a Risk Assessment had been carried out and the findings where there is a conflict between swimmers and boats. There is a strict sample water regime that needs to be in place also.

Mr. Kelly proposed that the SPC would look at the policy in relation to Rinville in the new year. He referred to the red route for the Galway to Athlone Greenway been recently chosen, this is a great opportunity for the county, and it needs to be looked at how to develop these areas and suggested that it should be an Agenda Item for the March SPC.

Cllr. Donohue commented it was hoped that a Master Plan would be developed for Rinville Pier. The risk assessment did highlight issues but hopefully if everybody works together a plan can be put together. With the announcement of the Red Route been selected, they need to focus on getting these areas enhanced.

Cllr. Donohue referred to the fencing that has been erected at Rinville Pier and questioned was there planning permission for same.

Mr. Pender replied to Cllr. Donohue comments as follows:

- The matter of the fencing has been referred to the Planning Enforcement Section.
- They are open to the idea of a Master Plan, there may be a possibility of developing a designated bathing area.

Cllr. Roche proposed that the item of Rinville Pier, be on the March Agenda for further discussion and consideration.

Mr. Pender thanked all the staff for their excellent work during the recent Storm Barra.

## **ITEM NO. 2 – CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS/OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED FROM ELECTED MEMBERS IN RELATION TO THE DRAFT POLICY ON ROADSIDE MEMORIALS**

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Mr. Pender advised that he did not wish to rush the finalising of the document, as it is a very sensitive issue, and the final version needs to be a robust document. He asked all the members to consider the six submissions/observations that have been received and that same will be considered/discussed at the first SPC to be held in 2022.

Cllr. Donohue outlined that she had given this item consideration and had spoken to an individual whose brother died in a tragic road accident and a roadside memorial was erected at the scene of the accident. She asked him what the importance to him and his family of having a roadside memorial in place and he advised that they felt closer to their brother at this spot as it was where he took his last breath.

### **ITEM NO. 3 – CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Pender advised the Committee that correspondence had been sent to Catherine Martin T.D. regarding the issue of signage at Baile Chláir/Claregalway for N17 and M17/M18 road users and Minister Eamon Ryan T.D. regarding the cancelled X20 Bus Route Galway-Dublin and he was awaiting their replies. He advised he had received a reply from the TII regarding the provision of additional directional signs on the M17/M18 Motorway (*copies of all correspondence where circulated to SPC members*).

Cllr. Roche commented that the reply from the TII is a vexed issue. He outlined that six years ago a deputation from Galway County Council had met with the TII and at that time they gave a commitment, that if the Council proposed three villages, they would look at the proposal favorably.

Mr. Pender advised that he would be meeting with the TII in the near future, and he would raise the matter with them at that time.

Mr. Kelly advised that there was a similar issue in the Clarinbridge area, and they were successful in getting the additional sign erected by the TII.

Mr. Kelly advised the Committee that The Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan is open for submissions with a closing date of Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021. He queried has the SPC any role in the consultation process?

Cllr. Donohue referred to the issue of Hedge Cutting. She proposed the idea of the SPC developing a Hedge Cutting Policy that Galway County Council could circulate to every household in County Galway.

Mr. Pender commented that the logistics of distributing such a document would be an issue.

Cllr. Roche commented that there would be a huge cost involved and the Council could not be burdened with the cost.

Mr. Madden suggested the idea of circulating the policy document through the Public Participation Network (PPN), as they have a large community-based email group already established.

Cllr. Dolan welcomed the approval of the Galway City Ring Road, by An Bord Pleanála.

Mr. Pender commented that he understands that many people feel this is not the solution. There is a possibility that a Judicial Review could happen, he advised there is a 60-day period where an application for a Judicial Review can be made.

Mr. Pender acknowledged the enormous contribution of four employees, who are now deceased who worked on the Galway City Ring Road project, Mr. Frank Gilmore, Mr. Liam Gavin, Mr. John Morgan and Mr. Jack Eising.

Comh. Ó Curraoin welcomed the decision but commented that he was opposed to the demolition of houses, and that the first proposed design was more favorable.

Mr. Kelly concurred with Comh. Ó Curraoin comments and hopes that the work will be carried out in an environmentally sensitive way.

#### **ITEM NO. 4 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Kelly acknowledged the selection of the red route for the Galway to Athlone Greenway and commented that same will be a huge benefit to the whole of Galway. He queried could the SPC be involved in creating/discussing links within the county regarding the selection of the red route.

Cllr. Dolan welcomed the announcement also. He commented that he is aware that the people of Monivea would welcome the potential of establishing links.

Mr. Pender advised the SPC that there is a dedicated team established within Galway County Council for Greenway Projects, Mr. Fintan O'Meara is the Senior Executive Engineer leading the team. He advised that the plan for early 2022 is for the establishment of a combined Greenway/Active Travel section.

Cllr. Roche referred to the development of the QuiteMan Greenway, and the issue of the disused rail line.

Mr. Pender advised that a fence line would need to be erected along the railway line if chosen as the route, but at this stage there are 6 or 7 options so it cannot be pre-determined, what route will be selected.

Cllr. Cuddy referred to the issue of speeding on national roads and queried what can be done to remedy the situation.

Mr. Pender advised that it is a matter for An Garda Síochana and commented that regular check points could be a solution.

Cllr. Roche referred to Annagh Hill National School and advised that in the past there was an issue with speeding and traffic been diverted down to the cul-de-sac near the school and how it was discovered that the problem was caused as a result of google maps directing traffic down to this spot as google maps had not been updated.

Mr. Kelly advised that Ballinderreen N.S. recently undertook a traffic speed survey at the school and findings were that 87.5% of cars exceeded the speed limit. He advised that since the N67 Ballinderreen Kinvara road was completed, it has resulted in increased speed of vehicles coming into the village.

Mr. Pender advised that it is intention to have a dedicated speed limit team in place for the undertaking of the Speed Limit Review for County Galway which is due to take place in early 2022.

With regard to the issue of Google Maps not been updated, he advised that in a previous position in held, he had made a request to the TII regarding the issue of Google Maps been out of date.

Cllr. Dolan requested an update on the N63 Liss to Abbey Realignment Scheme. Mr. Pender advised that the application is with An Bord Pleanála and a decision is expected in the first quarter of 2022.

Cllr. Roche, Cathaoirleach thanked the committee members for their attendance and concluded the meeting.

***Críochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.***

**Signed &  
Approved by:**

  
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**Cllr/ Peter Roche**  
**Cathaoirleach**  
**Transportation & Infrastructure S.P.C.**

**Date:** 20/4/2022

The letter advised that a meeting to review the proposed amendments to the Code of Practice for the Review of the Commission's work was held on 15th July 2011. The meeting was attended by the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Executive Director, the Director of Operations, the Director of Finance and the Director of Legal Services. The meeting was held in the presence of the Commission's staff and the Commission's external advisors.

The meeting considered the proposed amendments to the Code of Practice for the Review of the Commission's work and the Commission's response to the 11 recommendations of the Commission's previous report. The meeting also considered the Commission's response to the 11 recommendations of the Commission's previous report.

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Approved by the Commission on 15th July 2011





Chair of the Commission  
Vice-Chair of the Commission