

**MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**  
**STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**HYBRID MEETING HELD IN**  
**THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE**  
**ON WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2023 AT 10.00am**

**I Láthair:**

**Baill:** Cllr. Peter Roche (Chairperson)  
Cllr. Jim Cuddy  
Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin  
Mr. John Finn

**Baill ar Líne:** Cllr. Geraldine Donohue  
Cllr. Declan Kelly  
Cllr. Gerry King  
Cllr. Albert Dolan

**Oifigi:** Mr. Derek Pender, A/Director of Services, Roads & Transportation  
Ms. Rachel Lowe, Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation  
Cllr. Alastair McKinstry  
Mr. Shaun McLaughlin, Executive Engineer  
Ms. Geraldine Byrne, Administrative Officer, Roads & Transportation  
Ms. Sajil Elwood, Assistant Staff Officer, Roads & Transportation

**Apologies:** Mr. Diarmaid Kelly  
Mr. Tom Prendergast, Senior Engineer

**Absent:** Mr. Tom Madden  
Mr. Kenny Deery

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**ITEM NO. 1 - MINUTES OF TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE SPC MEETING HELD ON THE 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.**

On the **Proposal** of Cllr. Cuddy and **Seconded** by Comh. Ó Curraoin the minutes of the meeting of the Transportation & Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee held 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 were agreed.

**ITEM NO. 2 – MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

### **ITEM NO. 3 – UPDATE FROM THE TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE SPC SUB-COMMITTEE THAT WAS FORMED TO INTERACT WITH THE NTA REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF PARK AND RIDE.**

Cllr. Alastair McKinstry who is a member of this sub-committee attended the meeting to give an update to the SPC Committee. He outlined that this sub-committee was formed to interact with the NTA regarding the development of a Park and Ride following presentation from the NTA at the December 2022 plenary meeting on the Galway Park and Ride Strategy. The opinion on the day was that a sub-committee needed to be formed as it was felt the proposed strategy would benefit Galway City but did not seem to be benefiting County Galway.

Committee members raised the following points and queries:

- Cllr. Donohue outlined that Galway is so far behind with regards to a public transport service to meet demands, there is a serious lack of buses in the evening times and the current system is not working. A good public transport service gives independence.
- Cllr. Kelly looked for clarity on time frames and wondered should we not be embracing the Ring Road Project, as this would result in traffic moving more efficiently.
- Cllr. Roche queried is this strategy been considered as a full County of Galway policy.

Cllr. McKinstry replied that the strategy is for the whole of Galway area. He outlined that he is conscious of the role of the Transportation & Infrastructure SPC which already exists and that the primary task of the sub-committee is a fact-finding exercise. He advised that they are unable to proceed any further without obtaining more facts and information from the NTA and TII.

Cllr. Dolan echoed Cllr. Donohue's comments and said he is a big believer in minimum viable product and to have one bus running is better than none. He outlined that we need to see what works and won't work and proposed the idea of trial pilot park and ride scheme.

Cllr. McKinstry outlined that the sub-committee are now asking the SPC to engage with the NTA as they need to understand the full extent of the strategy to move forward.

Cllr. Donohue requested that a clear list of the objectives be circulated to the SPC committee members.

### **ITEM NO. 4 – PRESENTATION ON THE LISS TO ABBEY SCHEME**

Shaun McLaughlin, Executive Engineer, NRDO attended the meeting to provide an update to the SPC committee on this scheme. *(A copy of the presentation was circulated to the committee members).*

Mr. Pender thanked Shaun and his team and wished to put on record his appreciation. This scheme was entirely funded by the TII and is due for completion in Q4 of 2024.

Cllr. Roche referred to the works taking place on Newtown Bridge and complimented the works that have been completed so far and advised that the current bridge has a heritage value. He commented that the wall that is currently being repaired is aesthetically pleasing, however, he requested that whilst the contractor was on site, it was an ideal opportunity for other mass concrete sections of parapet wall to be replaced with the new aesthetically pleasing variety. Cllr. Roche was informed that unfortunately that could not be facilitated at this time due to severe financial restrictions with the budget.

#### **ITEM NO. 5 – SCHEDULE A DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Transportation & Infrastructure SPC is scheduled to be held 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 10.00am.

#### **ITEM NO. 6 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE**

Cllr. Cuddy referred to his request that he has submitted to the Road Safety Officer that Galway County Council as a matter of urgency give serious thought to the allocation of school wardens each morning and afternoon so that the children can cross safely in Claregalway.

Between the three schools there is approx. 1700 children attending these schools. A school warden is urgently needed as we are encouraging children to walk and cycle to school.

Cllr. Roche enquired as to whether Cllr. Cuddy had raised his concerns/issues at an Athenry Oranmore MD Meetings.

Mr. Pender advised Cllr. Cuddy that he needs to submit his proposal at MD level and he will receive a formal written reply to his request.

Cllr. Cuddy advised that he has sent an email to the Road Safety Officer and that he wishes his request to be in place for the new school term and that he expects a positive response.

Cllr. Donohue referred to the following issues she had raised and wished to have as Agenda Items and confirmed she had received a written reply from Mr. Pender by email dated 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

- Ash Dieback and the high risk that roadside trees are to road users etc.
- Clarity in relation to the 1.5 metres for cyclists on roads and the challenges motorists face when the 1.5metre clearance is not available to motorists.

Mr. Pender confirmed that he had fully answered the issues/concerns raised and that he would circulate the email reply to the entire SPC Committee for their information.


Mr. Finn echoed Cllr. Donohue's concerns. He outlined that the IFA are at present putting pressure on the Minister to deal with the issue of Ash Dieback. He outlined that it is quite expensive if a farmer would have to incur the expense of taking a tree down and a lot of small farmers would not be able to finance it themselves.

Cllr. Donohue looked for an update on the Community Involvement Scheme. Ms. Lowe advised that the scheme runs over a two-year period and will reopen to accept new applications at the end of 2023.

The meeting concluded. Cllr. Roche, Chairperson thanked the committee members for their attendance.

**Criochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.**

**Signed &  
Approved by:**

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

**Date:** 20/9/2023