

MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE
ON WEDNESDAY 30th JUNE 2021 AT 10.00am

I Láthair:

Baill: Cllr. Peter Roche (Cathaoirleach)
Cllr. Geraldine Donohue
Cllr. Jim Cuddy
Cllr. Albert Dolan
Comh. Tomás Ó Curraoin
Cllr. Pat Hynes

Oifigi: Mr. Derek Pender, A/Director of Services, Infrastructure and Operations Unit
Mr. Damien Mitchell, Senior Engineer, Infrastructure and Operations Unit
Ms. Eibhlin Curran, Administrative Officer, Infrastructure and Operations Unit
Mr. Cathal Joyce, Executive Engineer
Mr. Agenus Breathnach, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Shaun McLaughlin, Assistant Engineer
Mr. Darragh Connolly, Assistant Engineer
Ms. Sajil Elwood, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr. Gerry King
Mr. Diarmaid Kelly
Mr. Kenny Deery
Mr. Tom Madden

Absent: Mr. Martin Gibbons

Cllr. P. Roche commenced the meeting by formally welcoming Derek Pender, as the new Acting Director of Services, Infrastructure and Operations. He thanked Jim Cullen former Director of Services on the remarkable job he did and wished him well in his new role as Chief Executive (Interim).

ITEM NO. 1 - MINUTES OF ROADS & TRANSPORTATION SPC MEETING HELD ON THE 29th MARCH 2021.

On the **Proposal** of Cllr. Jim Cuddy and **Seconded** by Cllr. Geraldine Donohue, the minutes of the meeting of the Transportation & Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee held on 29th March 2021 were agreed and adopted.

Matters arising:

Cllr. Cuddy referred to page 7 of the minutes and queried was any progress made on traffic calming in relation to the bus corridor. Mr. Pender advised that Galway City Council have a Section 84 Agreement in place which allows them to progress with the works. He advised that they are currently doing traffic calming at Parkmore Junction and that he would request an update from the City Council.

Mr. Pender referred to the issue of bilingual signage on the M17 and advised that a change in legislation is required before any changes can be implemented. He advised that a letter was issuing to the T.I.I. in relation to additional signage for towns along the N63 route, e.g. Abbey, Moylough, Ballygar. Cllr. Cuddy welcomed that a letter was issuing. He commented that no bilingual sign showing exit for Baile Chláir is a huge issue. Comh. Ó Curraoin concurred with Cllr. Cuddy with regard the signage as Gaeilge can be very confusing and he would welcome bilingual signage.

Cllr. Roche commented that this issue had been going on for some time and that the ambiguity must be got rid of and whether TII are amenable to the policy change is another matter.

Cllr. Donohue referred to South Galway Flood Relief Scheme and looked for an update on engagement with landowners. Mr. Pender advised he would request an update from Mr. E. Gallagher.

ITEM NO. 2 – NATIONAL ROAD SCHEME UPDATES:

N59 Maam to Bunnakill

Mr. Cathal Joyce, Project Manager of the scheme presented an update on N59 Maam to Bunnakill Scheme to the members of the SPC.

Cllr. Roche thanked Mr. Joyce for a very comprehensive and informative update that he presented. Comh. Ó Curraoin commended all the staff who were involved in the sheme.

N67 Ballinderreen Kinvara Phase 2

Mr. Darragh Connolly, Assistant Project Engineer of the scheme presented an update on the N67 Ballinderreen Kinvara Phase 2 Scheme to the members of the SPC.

Cllr. Roche thanked Mr. Connolly for a very comprehensive and informative update that he presented. He offered his full compliments to the team involved.

ITEM NO. 3 – UPDATE IN RELATION TO N63 ABBEYKNOCKMOY/LISS SCHEME.

Mr. Shaun McLaughlin presented an update in relation to N63 Abbeyknockmoy/Liss Scheme to the members of the SPC.

Mr. Breathnach advised that any technical queries can be emailed to them and same will be forwarded to the consultants. He advised that two public consultations have taken place. They have received positive feedback and received submissions generally were

in favour of new option. He advised the preferred route has been refined based on submissions and it is hoped to make application to An Bord Pleanála by end of Q3 2021 and a favorable response is expected. The construction phase of the scheme could potentially start in Q4 2022, pending ABP approval and funding approval from the TII.

Cllr. Roche thanked Mr. McLaughlin & Mr. Breathnach for a comprehensive and informative update on the scheme.

Cllr. Dolan commented that it was a fantastic proposal and thanked Mr. Breathnach for clarity with regard his queries.

ITEM NO. 4 – TOILETS/WELFARE FACILITIES FOR BUS DRIVERS IN BARNÁ & ORANMORE AREAS.

Cllr. Donohue advised that she had put this item on the agenda as a result of correspondence that had been received, in order to see what options are available to the Council, to assist the drivers of these buses.

Comh. Ó Curraoin advised that he is aware that there are no public toilets available in the Barna area. However, a location and to locate a site would be an issue.

Mr. Mitchell advised that is aware of these representations from the bus drivers, this issue has arisen as a result of Covid19 restrictions. Prior to Covid19 bus drivers had arrangements in place for rest stop facilities. He advised that Galway County Council do not own facilities in these areas and if they were to provide it would be quite expensive. He outlined that one Galway County Council MD area had a public toilet facility which resulted in excessive costs for the MD area. Mr. Mitchell suggested that the next step would be to arrange a meeting with the bus companies, but that he felt it should not fall to Galway County Council to provide these facilities.

Cllr. Donohue advised that this issue relates to shorter bus journeys, were the buses did not have toilet facilities on board the bus.

Cllr. Dolan commented that this was a concern for cross city routes. He advised that Galway County Council needs to engage with the bus companies. Cllr. Cuddy commented that this is a nationwide problem, joint up thinking is what is required.

Cllr. Roche stated that this is an unfair burden to be put on the Council and that there must be a precedent set elsewhere. He said the next stage was to engage with the bus companies.

Cllr. Donohue proposed that JC Decaux and City Direct be invited to present at the next Transportation & Infrastructure SPC.

Mr. Mitchell advised that JC Decaux have a contract with the NTA, they put up the signage at bus shelters, the company also provide sanitary facilities and maintain same

for a fee. He advised that under the NTA Active Travel Scheme 2021, GCC have received funding and this issue needs to be progressed under the NTA program.

Comh. Ó Curraoin agreed with Cllr. Donohue's proposal to invite the bus companies to attend the next SPC meeting. He stated that if these toilet facilities were to be provided, they would have to be available to the public and not restricted to the bus drivers.

Mr. Mitchell replied that this would be a public convenience and would need to be located near the bus stops for use by the bus drivers. If the bus companies are referring to cross city routes it will have to be analysed, as the convenience needs to be along the route. He advised the decision needs to come from the NTA as the bus routes are in both the city and county areas.

Cllr. Roche concurred with Mr. Mitchell's comments.

Mr. Pender confirmed that if this convenience is provided by the Council it will be for use by the public as well as the bus drivers.

ITEM NO. 5 – N.O.M. REFERRAL FROM PLENARY COUNCIL

5 (i) Report on legal advice regarding NOM submitted for March Plenary meeting by Cllr. A. McKinstry.

"We call on the Executive to do due diligence on the sourcing of rock, sand, gravel and aggregates for roads and construction projects.

In doing so, we call on the council to ban any supplier that has been prosecuted for illegal quarrying, or is known to be sourcing material from SACs or SPCs, from being a supplier to the council for 5 years."

Rationale:

The Council is both the largest purchaser of such material in the county and the enforcer of regulations. As such its role in purchasing is crucial to the operation of quarries.

Legal proceedings can take several years with appeals and be a major expense for the council, requiring a significant deterrent to ensure that enforcement fines are not dismissed as just "the cost of doing business."

Mr. Pender advised that legal advice was sought, and a reply was received from the Law Agent, GCC, which advised that the wording to suggest that the Executive could "**ban any company from being a supplier to the Council for 5 years**" in their opinion is ill-conceived, arbitrary and subject to challenge. Letter of Advises were received from Mr. William Abrahamson BL who concluded that it is not legitimate for Galway County Council to apply a blanket prohibition. He confirmed that the legal advices were very clear, and that prohibition cannot be done.

5 (ii) NOM submitted by Cllrs. Herterich Quinn and Kinane at May Plenary Meeting.

"We support the Love 30 Campaign for Lower Speed Limits

- 30 km/h speed limits should be introduced in all residential estates, other residential roads and in neighbourhood centres.**

- **Periodic 30 km/h zones should be implemented around all schools and other places of assembly (cinemas, theatres, community centres, religious buildings, all sporting venues etc.), that have large numbers of people arriving and/or departing at the same time.**
- **These 30 km/h speed limit changes should also apply to roads in new housing estates that have not yet been taken in charge and to future housing estates. This can be achieved by setting 30 km/h as the default speed limit across whole towns and villages, with exceptions for specific roads.**
- **In semi-rural and rural areas, roads with ribbon housing should not have speed limits exceeding 50-60 km/h. In some of these cases, the speed limit should be substantially lower.**

We, therefore, wish to propose that the Transport and Infrastructure SPC undertake a review of the recommendations as stated above”.

D. Mitchell advised that he is aware that the Minister is considering the “Love 30 Campaign for Lower Speed Limits” and that no decision has been made yet. He advised that current speed limits in all areas, are those adopted under our Road Traffic Speed Limit Bye Laws. He advised that this matter must be played out at national level and that Galway County Council awaits the decision of the Minister.

Cllr. Roche queried as to when the next review of the Road Traffic Speed Limit Bye Laws would take place. Mr. Mitchell replied that he expected same to take place in early 2022. Cllr. Roche commented that it is at that stage that the NOM should be considered.

Cllr. Cuddy referred to the R446 at Fureys Cross and advised that these changes are really appreciated and question when the work is likely to commence. Mr. Mitchell advised that Ms. F. Holland oversees the project and the work is in progress.

ITEM NO. 6 – CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr. Roche advised the committee he had received a Motion from Cllr. G. Donohue which read as follows:

“That Galway County Council put in place a Steering Group (made up of Stakeholders, Cllrs. Disabled reps) to develop a Masterplan for the area known locally as Rinville Pier incorporating both sides of the public road and Pier”.

Proposed: Cllr. G. Donohue

Seconded: Cllr. J. Cuddy

Cllr. Donohue referred to item she submitted under correspondence in relation to “Minimum passing distance signage – Bicycle”. She looked for clarity regarding this signage.

Comh. Ó Curraoin commented that this is a lethal issue at present as more of the public are out cycling and walking, on footpaths and on the main road.

Mr. Mitchell responded that the Department allocated funding for this signage, GCC have put in an average of 214 signs across the county. Most of this signage reads as 1m

distance. He advised Cllr. Donohue that the location she referred to, there are only 4 locations where signage could be erected. He asked Cllr. Donohue to submit the specific location to himself and he would arrange for signage to be put in place.

Cllr. Cuddy commented that dual laneways would be a good idea.

ITEM NO. 7 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Pender advised that the “Draft Policy on Roadside Memorials” which was an Agenda Item for the June Plenary Meeting was not adopted by the elected members and has been referred back to the Transportation & Infrastructure SPC for amendments to be made to the policy.

Cllr. Donohue queried was it agreed at the June plenary meeting that the 39 elected members could make submissions on the Draft Policy. Cllr. Roche confirmed that it was and advised that he has received submissions.

Cllr. Roche addressed the issue of non-attendance of members of the Transportation & Infrastructure SPC. He advised that the bodies that these members represent on the SPC need to be contacted and advised to review the matter of non-attendance in order to nominate other representatives.

Cllr. Roche, Cathaoirleach thanked the committee members for their attendance and the staff of the Roads Section for all their help in arranging the SPC meeting and concluded the meeting.

Críochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

**Signed &
Approved by:**



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

Date: 