



## Miontuairiscí/Meeting Minutes

**Transportation Strategic Policy Committee 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023, Swift Room, Buvinda House, Dublin Rd, Navan at 2.30 pm**

- Attendees – (Councillors):** Cllr G. Connor (acting Chair), Cllr N. French.  
Cllr S. Tolan Cllr P. Meade Cllr T. Golden Via Teams,
- Attendees – (Sectoral Representatives):** G. Clarke, D. Murphy A. Watson, D. Ward,
- Apologies:** Cllr W. Harding, Cllr A. Smith, N. Wyatt Senior Engineer, K. Foyle Senior Executive Officer,
- (Officials):** M. Murray, Director of Service, C. Corrigan, Senior Engineer, J. McGrath Senior Engineer, B. Murphy, Administrative Officer

Item	Discussion / Action
1.0	<b><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u></b> The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2023 were approved. Proposed by Cllr N. French and seconded by Cllr G. Connor.
2.0	<b><u>Matters Arising from Minutes</u></b> No matters arising.
3.0	<b><u>Agree Meeting Dates for 2024</u></b> All proposed dates were agreed except for the June meeting. The Members agreed to defer June meeting to the 11 <sup>th</sup> of July as Local Elections are in June and there will be new Cllrs put forward for the SPC following the formation of the New Council.
4.0	<b><u>Navan Rail Line</u></b> M. Murray, Director of Services that there are no new updates since the last SPC. D. Ward indicated that the IFA members are available to assist and facilitate with regards to wayleaves etc.
5.0	<b><u>Road Safety Plan 2024</u></b> A Presentation was given by C. Corrigan, Senior Engineer, Transportation to the committee members on the new Road Safety Plan for the County.



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It was indicated to launch the plan soon with the RSA and the Chief Executive. It was advised that the RSA are treating Road Safety very serious and will be upping the severity of messages in the coming months. It was noted that the RSA are currently running their Christmas Campaign.

A New Road Safety Officer will be in situ after interviews on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2024.

The Members agreed to issue a letter from the SPC to former road Safety Officer, Mick Finnegan thanking him for his efforts in improving Road Safety in the County during his tenure.

CLlr G. Connor stated that unfortunately driver behaviour was the main cause of accidents and until that changed, we cannot avoid accidents occurring.

G. Clarke stated certain computer gaming has influenced young drivers' behaviour also.

M. Murray, Director of Service outlined that the national speed limit review is currently being revised by the Department of Transport. The committee members will be updated as soon as the review process is complete.

CLlr N. French stated the new 30 KPH urban speed limit will send out a good message. It was his opinion that more enforcement is the only way to deal with speed and bad habits.

D. Murphy stated distractions cause many problems. He highlighted that the current driver learning does not have motorway driving or night-time driving as part of the learning and it is not included on the test either.

A. Watson highlighted that there is no NCT requirement for a motorbike.

M. Murray, Director of Service said he was happy to write to Testing Authority to request that they look at expanding the parameter of the learning process and the test, that he would issue a letter to the RSA in relation to the NCT matter.

CLlr P. Meade stated the reduction of speed limits to 30 KPH will be of no help unless it is accompanied by serious enforcement.

M. Murray, Director of Service clarified that the 30KPH issue is a national objective and we will be guided by the roll out of this National Speed limit revised programme.

CLlr G. Connor commented that there are many complex issues and Meath Co. Co. can only manage a part of it. He is looking forward to the plan formally coming out.



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<p>6.0</p>	<p><b><u>To Form a Sub-Committee for the Winter Gritting Programme.</u></b></p> <p>M. Murray, Director of Service outlined the basis of the request to form the subcommittee and stated once formed the Executive will facilitate on the processes involved.</p> <p>It was outlined that the desired number of members for the committee would be 3 elected members and 2 sectoral interest members. All committee members agreed to this proposal.</p> <p>A. Watson suggested that Dermot Ward and Danny Murphy are best placed to represent the sectoral interests given their background. Their nominations were agreed and accepted by all.</p> <p>Clr G. Connor requested that we defer the nominations from elected representatives as not all were present today. This was agreed.</p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p><b>Notice of Motion referred to SPC for consideration.</b></p> <p><b>Submitted by Councillor Alan Tobin</b></p> <p><i>"I call on Meath County Council to examine the possibility of a one-way system to Hill of Tara on the following roads: - L-6200-0; L-6201; L-62001; L-6200-8 to ease traffic/increase pedestrian/cycling safety and ensure that residents and visitors have an enhanced experience - this would include looking at possible route options and a public consultation for a trial basis"</i></p> <p>M Murray Director of Service outlined that Meath County Council is the road authority and that the OPW own the location. There is currently a "Tara Conservation Management Plan" being developed involving all stakeholders. It is presently too early to respond to the motion; we need to await the decision from the OPW as to how they intend to operate "The Hill of Tara". The motion will have its merits in time.</p> <p>Clr N. French asked that when transport issues are raised by certain bodies that the motion be brought to their attention for discussion.</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p><b>To receive an update on School Safety &amp; School Warden Policy</b></p> <p>C. Corrigan, Senior Engineer, Transportation gave a presentation to the committee on the School Warden Policy.</p> <p>Clr S. Tolan commended Joe McGarvey Senior Executive Engineer on the advice he was able to provide around road safety for the new education campus in Bettystown. Clr S. Tolan queried whether push button lights were to be delivered as part of raised platforms?</p> <p>Clr G. Connor advised that lack of communication can be an issue, he acknowledges the great strides made in relation to school safety over the past number of years, unfortunately ignorant behaviour by drivers dropping off cause's problems. The Department of Education allowing existing schools to grow on already strained infrastructure, and this can add to traffic issues in certain areas.</p> <p>M. Murray, Director of Service stated we have invested heavily in safety measures around schools. The issue with retrofitting of certain schools in locations has led to congestion and safety issues as the demographic has changed over the years. We have used technology to invest in safety measures</p>



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	<p>at schools. There will always be a requirement to have a Warden service at certain schools. We are developing our policy and will revert to the SPC in the coming months once finalised.</p>
<b>9.0</b>	<p><b>A.O.B.</b></p> <p>G. Clarke raised the matter of Bus Services with many bus stops requiring Bus Shelters particularly along the N2 corridor. He said we should have a policy on same.</p> <p>Cllr G. Connor stated that there is clear policy within the County Development Plan on Bus Service and a dedicated engineer to liaise with the relevant authorities on such matters.</p> <p>M. Murray, Director of Service advised that he will forward on the relevant national policy to the members with the committee's consent. He can bring a presentation on the matter to the committee and gave an example of the processes involved in delivering Garlow Cross park and Ride facility. The N.T.A. have set out their strategies and it is all interlinked.</p> <p>D. Ward raised the matter of Ash tree die back disease. He said his organisation could offer assistance for the removal of these trees adjacent to road networks. There is no scheme available to take the trees down that are diseased. He would like to work on developing a scheme to assist in Road Safety. He said the Dept of Agriculture have an environmental scheme which could be referenced.</p> <p>M. Murray, Director of Service noted the point raised.</p> <p>Cllr G. Connor finished the meeting and wished everybody a Happy Christmas and look forward to working with everybody in 2024.</p>