



## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

### Transportation Strategic Policy Committee

**27<sup>th</sup> April 2016, Council Chamber, County Hall, Navan**

**Attendees -**

**Councillors:**

Cllr. Eugene Cassidy (Chairperson), Cllr. Seán Drew, Cllr. Enda Flynn, Cllr. Johnny Guirke, Cllr. Jim Holloway, Cllr. Paddy Meade, Cllr. Gerry O' Connor, Cllr. David Gilroy

**Apologies:** Cllr. Sean Smith

**Attendees -**

**Sectoral**

Sean Boyle

**Representatives:**

**Apologies:** Suzanne Brady

**Officials:**

Barry Lynch, Nicholas Whyatt, John McGrath, Jimmy Young, Jennifer Wall, Michael Finnegan, Paul Phelan, Alan Rogers

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<b><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u></b> The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 were approved. Proposed by Cllr Guirke, seconded by Cllr O' Connor.
2.	<b><u>Matters Arising</u></b> There were no matters arising
3.	<b><u>Lobbying Act 2015 – Transparency Code</u></b> B Lynch outlined the obligations placed on members of SPCs by the Transparency Code under the Lobbying Act 2015, in particular the publication of members' names and nominating bodies on Meath County Council's website. Consent to same was provided by the members present.
4.	<b><u>To receive an Update on Speed Limit Review</u></b> P. Phelan provided members with an update on the Speed Limit Review. The members thanked him for the report and raised the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop signs being placed in estates at junctions - is this normal procedure?</li> <li>• Submissions received following 2014 public consultation - will the bye-law be applied to all, how will it work?</li> <li>• Will this have implications on the costing to MCC going forward?</li> <li>• If the road is not taken in charge can we reduce speed limit.</li> <li>• If a speed limit is applied to an estate and it is not working will speed ramps be placed in estate?</li> </ul> N. Whyatt and P. Phelan replied to the comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The junction regulatory sign (yield or Stop) should be placed at junctions depending on visibility and road type. This is part of the process 'taken in charge' completed by developer.</li> <li>• There has been a lot of work completed with regard to estates within Meath, not all estates will have bye-law speed limit applied this year. Surveys have been completed for 175 estates in Meath, which are either MCC estates or are estates in-charge for which submissions have been received. These will be included in the 2016 speed limit bye-law. The process will be ongoing with regard to all other estates and if the criteria are met the limit will be applied on</li> </ul>

## *Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes*

	<p>a phased basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need for consistency and upkeep etc it will have a costing going forward but we are required to comply with National Guidelines.</li> <li>• If the road is not taken in charge then the road is not a public road and therefore MCC have no authority to apply a speed limit.</li> <li>• Speed surveys will be repeated in estates after the appropriate signage is placed in the estate to assess the requirement for any further traffic management.</li> </ul> <p>M. Finnegan noted that a self policing system will be the only way forward for this to be successful. MCC need to put the message out.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Appoint Winter Gritting Review Sub Group</u></b></p> <p>It was agreed by the members that the following would serve on the Winter Gritting Review Sub Group:</p> <p>Cllr. David Gilroy Cllr. Gerry O'Connor Cllr. Paddy Meade Cllr. Johnny Guirke Cllr. Eugene Cassidy.</p> <p>Cllr Paddy Meade wanted it noted that Peter Farrelly has spoken to him about interest in this committee.</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Report from Road Safety Officer Re: safety standard at schools</u></b></p> <p>The members noted the report given by M. Finnegan, Road Safety Officer that had been circulated already.</p> <p>M Finnegan outlined that the safety standard has been set as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50km per hour speed limit</li> <li>• Signage on either side of the school, in accordance with traffic signs manual</li> <li>• Road markings on each side of the school, indicating school ahead, and/or slow down.</li> </ul> <p>This standard has been achieved by all schools within Meath. There may be 1or2 schools that require lines to be refreshed and this will happen within the next month or so. Flashing lights are in place about 65% of schools in Meath.</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Draft Policy on Vehicle Activated Signage</u></b></p> <p>N. Whyatt provided an overview on Vehicle Activated Signage and circulated a summary of the draft policy.</p> <p>The members raised the following issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What roads are signs to be used on and who provides them.</li> <li>• Are Vehicle Activated Signs solar powered?</li> <li>• Sign erected at Dan Shaw road works well.</li> </ul> <p>N Whyatt replied as follows:</p> <p>Traffic Signs Manual emphasizes that Vehicle Activated Signs should be used sparingly and where there is a real problem which is unlikely to be resolved with new or improved standard signs and lining. They are not to be used a precautionary measure and the policy is to prevent a proliferation of these signs which could undermine their effectiveness.</p>

## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TII have 2 pilot schemes planned on National roads.</li><li>• Meath County Council is responsible for placing signs on Non National roads where there is a speeding problem.</li><li>• Policy has a table on what type of VAS is suitable for each type of road.</li><li>• Vehicle activated signs are solar powered but can be placed on the mains</li><li>• Typical cost for sign purchase and installation is € 4,500 plus vat.</li></ul> <p>The draft policy will be further developed and finalised on the basis of the approach outlined to the members.</p>
8.	<p><b><u>Notices of Motion referred from Council meetings</u></b></p> <p>It was noted that there were two Notices of Motion referred to the Transportation SPC meeting</p> <p><b>Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor Damien O'Reilly referred from January 2016 Council Meeting.</b></p> <p><i>"I call on Meath County Council to install 'Welcome to County Meath' signs at every entry point from Louth into Drogheda County Meath and surrounding environs immediately marking the county border clearly."</i></p> <p>The motion was proposed by Councillor Damien O' Reilly and seconded by Councillor Wayne Harding.</p> <p>At the January 2016 Council Meeting the Transportation Department undertook an exercise to quantify the cost of erecting County Boundary Information signs across the County and bring the matter to the Transportation SPC for discussion.</p> <p>B Lynch noted that the Council had looked at the cost of erecting County Boundary information signs across the County and the estimate was €70 000 to €80,000. B Lynch also noted that signage had been erected around Drogheda.</p> <p>The members raised the following issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Signage not required at all entry points into County.</li><li>• Should target areas at risk of a boundary review in the County for example Kilcock Environs, Maynooth Environs, Clonee &amp; Enfield.</li><li>• Signage does help promote Meath as a tourist destination.</li><li>• Sign on R154 Oldcastle to Mountnugent road is a mile from County Boundary within Meath and should be relocated nearer to the boundary.</li><li>• One sign fits all to include different information on initiatives.</li><li>• Can the road project signs, NDP signs etc be removed as projects are completed.</li><li>• Could these existing signs be used for this purpose?</li></ul> <p>The officials responded as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is intention to remove road project signs, NDP Signs, etc when resources allow.</li><li>• Can arrange for a map to be drawn up of County and come back to next SPC meeting with a proposal for the SPC to consider.</li></ul> <p><b>Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor Sinéad Burke referred from March 2016 Council Meeting.</b></p> <p>- <i>"That this Council will carry out a thorough safety audit on the conditions allowing Meath school children safe passage to their schools. Working with the local schools, this audit will examine traffic management, set down areas and if appropriate, pedestrian</i></p>

## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

	<p><i>crossings. The findings of this work, will also inform any future planning applications for schools, ensuring that any new schools planned for Meath have safe and effective traffic management plans for the safety of both pupils, staff and parents / Go ndéanfaidh an Chomhairle seo iniúchadh slándála iomlán ar na choinníollacha lena ligtear do pháistí scoile dul ar scoil go slán sábhailte. Ag obair leis na scoileanna áitiúla déanfar imscrúdú ar bhainistíocht tráchta, limistéir thuirlingthe agus, más cuí, trasrianta coisithe leis an iniúchadh seo. Beidh torthaí na hoibre seo mar eolas d'arratais pleanála scoileanna sa todhchaí, ionas go gcinnteofar go mbeidh pleananna bhainistíocht tráchta slána éifeachtacha ag aon scoil nua beartaithe ar mhaithe sláinte na ndaltaí, na foirne agus na dtuismitheoirí."</i></p> <p>The motion was proposed by Councillor Sinéad Burke and seconded by Councillor Darren O'Rourke. Following a lengthy debate on the matter, it was agreed to refer the motion for consideration by the Transportation SPC.</p> <p>The members raised the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standards in Meath County Development Plan are not adequate regarding the provision of parking spaces for schools.</li> <li>• Do the standards for parking spaces in County Development Plan coincide with the provisions from the Department of Education.</li> <li>• Schools do not want to provide many parking spaces where space is limited.</li> <li>• Transportation SPC should designate the number of spaces necessary for schools.</li> <li>• Lack of continuous footpath in Athboy.</li> <li>• Safe routes should be considered by Department of Education in provision for schools.</li> </ul> <p>The officials responded as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no facilities for off road parking at many of existing schools - new schools are providing it.</li> <li>• The established practice has been that when traffic management issues at schools are raised contact is made with the RSO in MCC for discussion. Where something can be done to improve traffic management, improvements are carried out.</li> <li>• Getting traffic to turn left exiting Athboy School could be looked at.</li> <li>• Now that County Development Plan review is being undertaken could look at the parking issue from a Transportation Dept. point of view.</li> <li>• Meath County Council has to be consistent with the provisions in the NTA's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</li> <li>• For next meeting propose to examine and compare the provisions in the County Development Plan and NTA's Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.</li> </ul>
<p>9.</p>	<p><b><u>To agree dates, and location of future meetings</u></b></p> <p>It was agreed to postpone discussion on this item. A date for the next meeting will be agreed with the chairman and circulated in due course.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <p>The members raised the following issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any progress on the introduction of sponsorship of roundabouts.</li> </ul> <p>The officials responded that there are many demands on the Transportation Department at present and that resources would be allocated to this matter when they become available.</p>