



Miontuairiscí/Meeting Minutes

Transportation Strategic Policy Committee 26th April 2018, Swift Room, Room 057, Buvinda House, Navan

Attendees – (Councillors): Cllr Paddy Meade (Chair), Cllr Eugene Cassidy, , Cllr Sean Drew, Cllr Enda Flynn, Cllr Jim Holloway, Cllr. Johnny Guirke

Apologies: Cllr Sean Smith, Cllr Bryan Reilly, Cllr Gerry O'Connor, Cllr David Gilroy,

Attendees – (Sectoral Geoffrey Clarke - Environment Representative

Representatives): **Apologies:** Peter Farrelly – Agriculture/Farming Representative, Ben Bailey – Community Representative, Sean Boyle – Business and Commercial Representative,

(Officials): Des Foley, Nicholas Whyatt, John McGrath, Majella Farrell, Andrew Bagnall, Michael Finnegan, Jimmy Young.

Item	Discussion / Action
1.0	<p><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th January 2018 were approved. Proposed by Cllr E Flynn and seconded by Cllr J Guirke.</p>
2.0	<p><u>Matters Arising from Minutes</u></p> <p>Cllr Meade noted that the absence of Mr Peter Farrelly from the last meeting was due to the death of his father.</p> <p>Mr Geoffrey Clarke requested that Coillte should be stated in the minutes regarding the issue of the treatment of overhanging and ivy clad trees in roadside hedgerows on land owned by public bodies.</p> <p>John McGrath noted that Meath County Council is currently in consultation with Coillte on this issue.</p>
3.0	<p><u>Review of Winter Gritting Season 2017-2018</u></p> <p>Andrew Bagnall, Executive Engineer made a presentation on the review of the Winter Maintenance programme 2017-2018.</p> <p>It was noted that the following proposals and recommendations were being made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meath County Council is to tender for a panel of contractors to draw down from during severe weather events - Meath County Council should continue with the fleet replacement /upgrade

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	<p>programme subject to approval of capital funding, as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Replacement of 1 no 18t Tipper Truck (2001) with a new 26t Tipper Truck.- Replacement of 1 no 18t Tipper Truck (2000) with a new 18t Tipper Truck.- Purchase of two new salters 9cu. M. & 6 cu.m. (Trading in two 5 cu.m. Salters).- The above investment would give MCC the capability of delivering an additional 50km of network at a spread of 15g/km².- Subject to the above investment, MCC to review and redesign the current 10 salting routes in line with MCC's route prioritisation policy. <p>Following the presentation the following issues were raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Work on winter gritting during the bad weather during the winter of 2017-2018 was commended, especially at the time of Storm Emma.- Could a list of farmers be drawn up to call on in future bad weather conditions ?- Regional routes should be prioritised.- Could the following routes be included on the gritting schedule subject to funding ?<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Trim to Kinnegado Dunboyne to Leixlipo R163 Kells to Slaneo R154 Oldcastle to Athboyo Borallion Road, Navan- Does the extra expenditure on road gritting during the bad weather impact on road maintenance budget? <p>It was agreed that the proposals/recommendations in the report be endorsed and recommended.</p> <p>The following responses were made</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-It was noted that the access road to the Staleen water plant is gritted.- It was noted that 21.5% by length of all roads in the county are gritted.- The average % of roads treated if motorways are excluded is 19.5% and the national average of roads treated excluding motorways is 18%.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The extra expenditure on road gritting during the bad weather does impact on the road maintenance budget.
4.0	<p><u>Notices of Motion</u></p> <p>9.2 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden to Meath County Council March meeting</p> <p><i>"The members of Meath County Council call on the Transportation SPC to investigate the use of feeder hoppers (fixed & mobile) at various locations throughout the county to better utilise existing resources and, where appropriate, expand the gritting routes. If the SPC deems the proposal feasible, a proposal for full adoption be brought before the Council. This is an attempt to address the problems highlighted to Councillors at the previous review of the gritting routes."</i></p> <p><i>The motion, proposed by Councillor Trevor Golden and seconded by Councillor Noel French, was unanimously adopted. It was also agreed that Councillor Trevor Golden would be invited to attend the Transportation SPC in the context of the adopted motion.</i></p> <p>6.2 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch to Trim MD March meeting</p> <p><i>"Trim Municipal District would like to commend Meath County Council on their efforts to keep roads open during the recent adverse weather conditions. However we recommend that at least one access route out of all villages in the county is also prioritised in order to avoid some constituents being isolated."</i></p> <p><i>The motion was proposed by Councillor Caroline Lynch and seconded by Councillor Noel French.</i></p> <p><i>A short discussion followed with the approach taken during extreme weather was further outlined, including the use of contractors. It was requested that this motion be referred to the Transportation SPC for consideration as part of their review of the winter gritting programme.</i></p> <p><i>The motion was adopted.</i></p> <p>Andrew Bagnall, Executive Engineer provided a response to the Notices of Motion.</p> <p>The following matters were raised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there any data available for accidents during the winter gritting season. - Would the provision of hoppers benefit the winter maintenance programme. <p>It was noted in response that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the availability of accident data would be checked. - it would be more expensive to manage, fill and maintain the hoppers.

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9.7 Submitted by Councillor Trevor Golden to Meath County Council April meeting

"To call on the Transportation SPC to designate HGV routes throughout the county and propose any by-laws required. The purpose of such routes: divert HGV traffic to higher capacity routes (National & Motorway), reduce HGV traffic in towns & villages, improve Road Safety on Regional and Local Roads."

Response: It is recommended that this matter be referred to the Transportation SPC and that the SPC extend an invitation to Cllr Trevor Golden to attend the meeting to contribute to the discussion.

The following matter was raised

- Concern was expressed at the effect on trade and business.

The following response was made:

It was noted that

- New development which generates freight traffic should be located close to the National Road Network.
- Meath County Council's policy is to co-operate and support the NTA & TII (where appropriate) on measures designed to improve freight transport.
- National Transport Authority's policy allows for the assessment & introduction of HGV management measures in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA).
- To designate and enforce HGV routes on a countywide basis would be difficult, particularly considering the numbers of locally generated HGV's.
- It was noted that the priority should be traffic management in towns as per the NTA's policy approach to date.
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6.1 Submitted by Councillor Caroline Lynch to Trim MD March meeting

"Trim Municipal District calls on Meath County Council to develop a policy in reference to the allocation and retention of School Traffic wardens in the County in order to provide clarity regarding this issue going forward."

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Caroline Lynch** and seconded by **Councillor Enda Flynn**.

A short discussion followed on the need to provide school wardens for younger children who are not traffic aware and who are not accompanied, e.g. on school buses. It was agreed to refer this to the Transportation SPC for further consideration.

The motion was adopted.

Michael Finnegan Road Safety Officer provided an update on current position

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	<p>regarding school wardens.</p> <p>Following this update the following matters were raised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Perception that school wardens are being phased out. - Problem exists with parking on double yellow lines at schools. - Push button crossings are working well. - Can the criteria for school wardens be included in the Road Safety policy already in place for schools. - <p>In response it was noted that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the provision of school wardens was not being phased out. - it was agreed to look at the possibility of inclusion of the role and criteria for school wardens in the Road Safety policy already in place for schools for the next meeting.
5.0	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>The following items were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request for presentation at next meeting on Pothole Repairs works including details of machinery & crews used - Does Council have velocity patchers at present for repair of potholes? - Extra crews should be brought in to deal with extra potholes for February & March each year. - Are landowners entitled to cut down any trees on their roadside lands? - Notification of public consultation on proposed road projects to Environmental pillar of PPN. <p>The following responses were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Council does not own any velocity patchers at present but there are two on hire in the Kells MD. Using a velocity patcher is not a one person operation and still requires a traffic management crew with a patcher. - The Council is applying to the Department of Transport for an additional allocation because of the damage caused to roads by the bad weather. - If it is the case that the trees are on a boundary hedge they could be cut although there may have been changes to this in a recent Forestry Act. This can be checked. - If Environmental pillar of PPN is registered as a stakeholder with the Council it can be notified of public consultations on proposed road projects.



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	Next meeting Thursday 26 th July 2018.
	<p><u>Recommendations from SPC Committee to Corporate Policy Group and to Full Council.</u></p> <p>1) <u>Winter Maintenance Programme</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Meath County Council to tender for a panel of contractors to draw down from during severe weather events- Meath County Council to continue with the fleet replacement /upgrade programme subject to approval of capital funding, as follows<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Replacement of 1 no 18t Tipper Truck (2001) with a new 26t Tipper Truck.- Replacement of 1 no 18t Tipper Truck (2000) with a new 18t Tipper Truck.- Purchase of two new salters 9cu. M. & 6 cu.m. (Trading in two 5 cu.m. Salters).- Subject to the above investment, Meath County Council to review and redesign the current 10 salting routes in line with the Council's route prioritisation policy. <p>2) <u>School Wardens</u></p> <p>To consider if the setting of criteria for the appointment of school wardens is feasible, for inclusion in the Road Safety policy already in place for schools.</p>