comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

# *Miontuairiscí/Meeting Minutes*

***Transportation & Urban Regeneration Strategic Policy Committee 19th February 2026, Swift Room, Buvinda House, Dublin Rd, Navan, C15 Y291 at 2.30 pm***

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| **Attendees – (Councillors):** | Cllr Mike Bray (MB) Chair, Cllr Amanda Smith (AS), Cllr Sean Drew Cllr Paddy Meade (PM) online, Cllr Caroline O'Reilly (COR) online |
| **Attendees – (Sectoral Representatives):** | Mr. Dave Anderson (DA) PPN Rep, Ms. Josephine Reynolds O'Connor (JROC), PPN Rep, in person. |
| **Absent** | Cllr, Cllr Wayne Harding (WH) ; Ms. Paula Mc Caul (PMC) PPN Rep |
| **Apologies:** | |
| **(Officials):** | Martin Murray (MM), DOS, Fiona Beers (FB) Acting Senior Engineer, Joan Carroll (JC) Senior Executive Officer, John McGrath, Senior Engineer (SE), Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer (SE), Mary Loughran (ML) Senior Staff Officer, Jamie Nolan (JN), Climate Action Officer, Marc Cahill (MC) Climate Action Graduate, Mary D'Arcy (MD'A)Climate Acton Co-Ordinator |

| **Item** | |
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| **1.0** | **<u>Minutes of Previous Meeting 11th September 2025</u>**<br><br>Proposed by; Cllr Amanda Smith (AS)<br>Seconded by: Cllr Mike Bray (MB) |
| **2.0** | **<u>Matters Arising from Minutes</u>**<br><br>**AOB –** DA asked for the Roadside Memorial Policy which was to be distributed in advance of the meeting . JC to distribute after the meeting. |
| **3.0** | **<u>Notice of Motion referred from Plenary to SPC for discussion, submitted by Cllr Helen Meyer</u>**<br><br>*"To introduce an immediate ban on the use of weed killer containing glyphosate for the year 2025 by Meath County council and all local authority contractors with a review in Nov/Dec 2025 to assess if it is feasible for the council to introduce a permanent ban."*<br><br>MB referred Item to the next SPC in order to facilitate attendance of Cllr. Helen Meyer who could not attend due to other commitments. |


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| **4.0** | **<u>Climate Action – Decarbonisation Zones (DZ's)</u>**<br><br>JN. MC & MD'A gave an overview of Meath DZ's covering<br><br>• What is a DZ in relation to the Climate Action Plan (CAP)<br>• Objectives of the DZ's - raise awareness & be achievable. Be specific, targets and funding required<br>• Baseline Emission Inventories - using Navan v Laytown Bettystown (LB)DZ as an example. LB has 2 cement factories while Navan does not and the corresponding impacts that will have on that area. It was stated that the implementation of plans will be needs based not generic. It was highlighted by M'DA that Meath is unique in so far as it has 9 DZ's. Most other counties have 1 with funding just announced, with Meath allocated €811,000 grant funding, however applications for the grant funding to the value of €3.1million have been received. M'DA stated it is important that funded projects are actionable.<br>• Task holders, confirmed to be MCC<br>• Networking Event planned for 20th April<br><br>SD asked how to encourage the Community to get involved. It was stated that they will be educated with the supports of MCC and then the commencement of 6 monthly meetings to demonstrate , for example, that not only will MCC be highlighting the advantages to the Community / Business / Individual as to the Climate benefits but also the financial and life changing benefits to be gained . M'DA stated that all sections of MCC are looking at the full picture, e.g., Biodiversity Plan, County Development Plan, Active Travel, TII Action Plans, Safe Routes to School etc. so as to ensure that we all move forward together on the initiative.<br><br>SD gave an example of Energy-efficient coolers initiative where 1 pub initially installed the cooler and now 7–8 publicans participating. It is critical for the success of the DZ's that we demonstrate emissions reductions, financial benefits and neutral or positive economic impact<br><br>PM mentioned the large industrial type developments in the LB area, examples being Irish Cement, Indaver , Amazon. He would like to see a breakdown of how the CAP & DZ is dealing with these and while he acknowledged the employment benefits to the community, he also referenced the effects these industries had on the community's health.<br><br>DA asked how the DZ impacts on Active Travel, Progress Reporting & Forecast Outcomes. M'DA stated that the progress report is on the agenda for the full council meeting in April. Tracking forecasts have also commenced, awaiting guidance on baselines, but to commence in 2027. WRT to decarbonization MM stated heavy vehicles present decarbonisation challenges as transition to electric vehicles is complex.<br><br>MM stated that it is imperative that the community / person on the ground has a clear vision of what has to be done . M'DA stated that it is a coordinated approach with LEO, Economic |


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| | Development, Local Business, other stakeholders including MCC etc., example being the tender process for many Transportation contracts have to incorporate the "Green" approach.<br><br>In response to PM, M'DA stated that the population travelling outside the county is not impacting on the delivery of the CAP and she stated that green initiatives could enhance Meath's profile and attract people and businesses to the county.<br><br>M'DA, MC & JN left the meeting at 3.20pm |
| **5.0** | **<u>Work Programme 2026</u>**<br>MM invited the Committee to put forward specific policy requests and reminded them that the focus of the SPC is to agree policy & goals at a local level. He explained in response to DA questions for clarity that National Policies are driven at National level and while we support and implement the National Policies the SPC's aim is to agree on real workable policies to implement, for example the Road Works Programme / Safety Programme etc. SD asked what other counties do, MM stated that it is difficult to compare like with like as Meat has 6 MD's and many counties only have 2 MB stated that the policy must be specific.<br><br>PM proposed that a Policy on " No Roads Left Behind" be considered and that the worst roads are addressed. SD agreed, stating that it would be of great benefit if 6 maps of the 6 MD's were provided to the group with the "red" roads with PSCI 1-4 highlighted. MM agreed to provide for discussion and noted that it would not be for 2026 as the SMDW has been agreed and we are to commence tenders and programme for restoration & maintenance. MM agreed to arrange the mapping stating that above 95% of our roads are rated on PSCI. MB disagreed that the funded should go County Based and re-iterated that it should remain at MD level. It was agreed to be reviewed on assessment of the maps with the "red "roads.<br><br>COR enquired about laneways and the Community Involvement Schemes and MM explained that a decision has to be made to provide funding for the most used roads or lesser used however there is a commitment to a 5 year programme for local tertiary roads. He noted that 35% of road users are in 2 MD's.<br><br>MM updated the Committee following DA & SD questions on Active Travel & Urban Regeneration update requests stating<br>• €500,000 NTA funding received<br>• 280 applications for bus stops, funding would need to be allocated on the most used / beneficiaries<br>• National Rail Strategy is supported by MCC but operated by Irish Rail<br>• Look at issued papers on CDP and look at policies that can be addressed from same e.g., Pedestrian Plan |


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| | • Urban Regeneration is targeted at towns with populations over 10,000 but also has other criteria which qualifies Trim as an Urban Centre. MM can arrange details if required but it must be noted that it sits under another SPC. |
| **6.0** | **Correspondence & Circulars**<br>JC informed the members of the following correspondence and circulars received by the Transportation Department relevant to the Committee<br><br>Circulars received<br><br>• Meath Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations 2026<br><br>MM stated that there was a very small increase in the funding received by the Department of Transport and MCC are currently look at requesting increased funding based on factual data from traffic counts (AVT). |
| | **AOB**<br><br>PM asked if LIS applications will be accepted next week, MM and ML confirmed that they will be accepted all year round, however the deadline of the 20th of February was set in line with the 2026 funding<br><br>MB informed the Committee that he and MM attended Leinster House on 17th April at short notice with Gillian Toole TD. Learnings from the visit was that Bus Services are being affected due to recruitment difficulties that are being encountered by Bus Eireann & Dublin Bus. Currently 8% of services cancelled, this in turn impacts traffic congestion.<br><br>Meeting ended @16.10 pm |


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