

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Transportation and Water Services

Strategic Policy Committee

held on Thursday 19th February, 2015, at 2.30p.m.

in The Corporate Services Meeting Room, County Hall, Wexford.

In the Chair: Councillor Larry O' Brien

Attendance: Councillors Michael Whelan, Michael Roche, Anthony Connick and Pip Breen.

Messrs. Michael Bennett, Construction Industry, Eamonn Hore, Director of Services, Noel O' Driscoll, A. Senior Engineer, David Codd, Road Safety Officer, Sinead Casey, District Manager, New Ross & Liz Stanley, Senior Staff Officer, Roads.

Apologies: Councillors James Browne and Deirdre Wadding.

At the outset of the meeting, the Director of Services welcomed everyone to the initial Committee meeting and outlined the major projects, relevant to the Transportation and Water Services SPC, which would take place over the lifetime of the Committee.

- Advancement of Major By-Pass Schemes
- Flood Relief projects – New Ross and Enniscorthy
- Traffic Management in towns and villages
- Environmental Issues
- Winter Maintenance
- Public Lighting

The Director of Services also advised that a number of positions were currently vacant on the Committee and representatives from the Trade Union Sector, Business/Commercial Sector and Social Inclusion Group had been contacted again recently requesting a nomination to represent their area at these Committee meetings. The Director advised that every effort would be made to ensure that

representatives from these areas would be nominated for the next Transportation and Water Services Strategic Policy Committee meeting.

The Director of Services presented a comprehensive report outlining and overview of the Regional and County Roads, National Roads, and the Major Schemes operating within the County.

A breakdown of the road network was provided with Non-National Roads comprising of 3,213km and National Roads comprising of 171km.

New Ross Bypass:

Members were advised of progress to date on the New Ross Bypass and that the contract should be awarded for this project in mid 2015, with planned construction starting in the last quarter of 2015.

The construction period is estimated to be three years with a 30 month construction period for the River Barrow Bridge. A total of €228 million has been allocated for this project.

M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy By Pass:

The Director outlined details of the M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy Scheme which is a realignment of the N11 National Primary road from South of Gorey (Clogh) to south of Enniscorthy (Oilgate). The Director advised that the realigned route will consist of 27kms and it is expected that the contract will be awarded in April/May 2015 with a construction start in the final quarter of 2015. A total of €341million has been allocated for this project which is expected to be completed in December 2018.

The members welcomed this progress and asked to be updated on all future progress.

Members were also updated on the current status of the N11/N25 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Scheme, and the Flood Relief Schemes in New Ross and Enniscorthy.

National & Non-National Funding Allocations 2014:

The National, Regional and Local Road Allocations for 2015 were presented to all members of the Committee. Members were advised that grant allocations in total were about €280,000 lower than last year's and the Senior Engineer advised that the allocation had been reduced by €8 - €9 million over the past seven years.

Concern was expressed regarding the ongoing maintenance of the road network in the County as a number of local roads are currently in a state of disrepair and based on the current funding status, the current rate of return for road works is 39 years.

The main grant allocations, including a comparison with the 2014 figures were then presented.

Speed Limits and Traffic Safety within Housing Estates:

Mr. David Codd, Road Safety Officer, attended the meeting and presented a document outlining the current default limits for different categories of roads within the County. He further advised the Committee of Special Speed Limits and advised that in addition to the Default Speed Limits, there are instances where it may be necessary to intervene and change speed limits in certain areas.

Members were advised that County Wexford Speed Limit Bye Laws were adopted in 2008 and currently cover 98 villages and towns with 493 speed limit locations. Mr. Codd advised that Wexford County Council is currently in the process of revising the current Bye Laws and a new document outlining the Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland is due to be launched by the Department of The Environment in March/April 2015.

He advised that since the enactment of the 2008 Special Speed Limit Bye Laws, seventy six requests for the lowering of existing speed limits have been received and 75 requests relate to installation of Traffic Calming Measures/Lowering of Speed Limits in Housing Estates.

Following a discussion on the matter, concern was expressed regarding the lack of resources to police and enforce these special speed limits and the cost factor was also noted with concern as the Committee was advised that one typical round top ramp would cost in the region of €3,000 which would include the ramp, advance warning signage and road markings.

It was agreed to list this item for further discussion at the next Committee meeting and the Road Safety Officer was thanked for a very interesting and informative presentation.

Any other business:

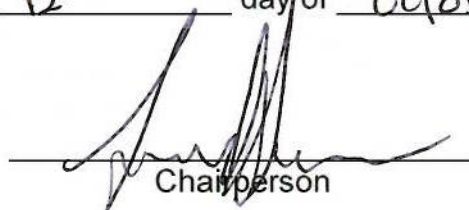
- The members unanimously agreed to contact the National Roads Authority to ensure that adequate tourism signage is erected in the New Ross and Enniscorthy areas following the construction of the By-passes.
- Members were advised to contact the Secretary if they had any particular items for inclusion on forthcoming agendas.

Date of Next Meeting:

It was agreed that the Committee would meet in May 2015 and a date would be decided nearer the time. It was further agreed that the Committee would meet four times per year as a minimum.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed on the 12th day of OCTOBER., 2015


Chairperson

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Transportation and Water Services

Strategic Policy Committee

held on Monday 12th October, 2015, at 11.00a.m.

in The Corporate Services Meeting Room, County Hall, Wexford.

In the Chair: Councillor Larry O' Brien

Attendance: Councillors James Browne, Michael Whelan, Michael Roche, Messrs. Michael Bennett, Construction Industry, Ms. Bernie Mullen, Community, David Codd, Road Safety Officer, Sinead Casey, District Manager, New Ross & Liz Stanley, Senior Staff Officer, Mr. Ml. McCormack, Senior Staff Officer, Mr. Oliver Tierney, National Roads Liaison Officer, Mr. James Whelan, Executive Engineer, Mr. N. Rossiter, Senior Executive Engineer.

Apologies: Councillors Deirdre Wadding & Anthony Connick, Mr. Eamonn Hore, Director of Services, Noel O' Driscoll, A. Senior Engineer.

At the outset of the meeting, the Minutes from the previous committee meeting held in February 2015 were discussed and on the proposal of Mr. Michael Bennett, seconded by Cllr. John Browne, the minutes were adopted and signed by the Chairperson.

Update On Major National Road Schemes:

Mr. Oliver Tierney, National Roads Liaison Officer presented a comprehensive report outlining and overview of the current status of the New Ross Bypass PPP Scheme and the M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy Scheme.

New Ross Bypass:

Members were advised that the preferred bidder for the PPP concessionaire for the New Ross project was BAM/Iridium/PGGM and that the concessionaire's works contractor will be a joint venture of BAM Civil and Dragados Irl. The committee was advised that it is expected that the contract will be awarded towards the latter end of 2015 and that the construction period is over a period of 36 months. It is intended that this project will be completed during 2018 at a cost of €228million.

M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy By Pass:

Mr. Tierney outlined details of the M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy Scheme and advised the committee that whilst the contract will be awarded in Q4 of 2015, it is anticipated that physical works will not commence until early 2016.

The committee was advised that the realigned route will comprise of the provision of 26km of M11 mainline along with approximately 1km of N11 mainline. The proposed M11/N11 mainline located to the east of existing N11 will bypass Camolin, Ferns and Enniscorthy. They were further advised that it is proposed to provide approximately 8km single carriageway to bypass Enniscorthy to the West by linking the existing N11/N80 junction north of Enniscorthy to the M11 mainline. The total cost of this scheme is €341M.

Mr. Tierney responded to queries from the Committee and then withdrew from the meeting.

Presentation from Road Haulage Association:

This item was deferred for discussion at the next Committee meeting due to the unavailability of a representative from the Road Haulage Association.

Review of Countywide Speed Limits:

Mr. David Codd, Road Safety Officer, attended the meeting and presented a document outlining the current default limits for different categories of roads within the County. He further advised the Committee of Special Speed Limits and advised that in addition to the Default Speed Limits, there are instances where it may be necessary to intervene and change speed limits in certain areas.

Members were advised that County Wexford Speed Limit Bye Laws were adopted in 2008 and currently cover 98 villages and towns with 493 speed limit locations. Mr. Codd advised that Wexford County Council is currently in the process of revising the current Bye Laws and a new document outlining the Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland was published in March 2015.

He advised that since the enactment of the 2008 Special Speed Limit Bye Laws, 105 requests for the lowering of existing speed limits have been received and 78 requests relate to installation of Traffic Calming Measures/Lowering of Speed Limits in Housing Estates.

Mr. Codd explained that an assessment of 183 submissions will be carried out and advised all members to submit any areas of concern for inclusion in this assessment. He advised that plans were in place to bring the Draft Special Speed Limits to the District Committee in all areas by the end of the year and formally adopt the new Bye-Laws at the County Council Meeting in Q1 of 2016 following a public consultation process. Mr. Codd was thanked for a very interesting and informative presentation.

Irish Water Capital Projects – Update and Review:

Mr. Nicholas Rossiter, Senior Executive Engineer, presented a comprehensive report outlining Irish Waters Capital Investment Plan from 2014 – 2016. The committee was updated on plans and progress for the following projects:

- Gorey/Courtown Sewage Scheme
- Enniscorthy Sewage Scheme
- Fethard on Sea Sewage Scheme

The Committee was also updated on the Watermains Rehabilitation Ph. 2 Contract in Mill Lands Gorey, Ballylucas to Screen and Bridgetown to Kilmore. The watermains Rehabilitation project in Wexford town was also discussed in conjunction with the Gas Mains project which is due to commence in May 2016.

The current status for the Wexford Village Sewage Scheme was presented together with the Enniscorthy-Sow Regional Water Supply Scheme and Gorey Regional Water Supply Scheme.

Water Conservation – Update and Review:

Mr. James Whelan, A/Senior Executive Engineer, circulated and presented a report detailing the Water Conservation and Pipeline Rehabilitation Projects for 2015/2016. Mr. Whelan advised that WCC had been very proactive in this area and advised that unaccounted for water averages at 41% nationally with Wexford County Council recording a loss of 34% during 2015.

An un-accounted for water analysis sheet was presented outlining the losses in different areas of County Wexford which also demonstrated the progress made between 2004 and 2015.

Current pipe rehab projects within the County were also discussed. Mr. Whelan completed his presentation by highlighting the fact that under the Irish Water transformation plan, unaccounted for water nationally is to be reduced by 10% to a figure of 38% by 2021 and stated that Wexford County Council currently records a loss of 34% and intend to continue to analyse all leak and pressure figures to prioritise water mains in need of replacement to ultimately get to a figure of 25% for unaccounted water loss by 2021.

The Committee noted the excellent progress in this area and wished Mr. Whelan ongoing success with these projects going forward.

Any other business:

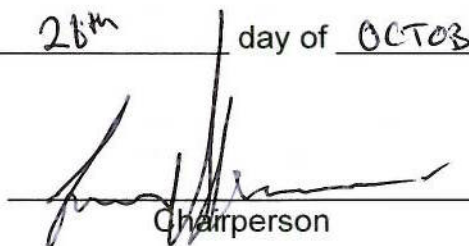
- It was agreed to list “The Development of Rosslare Harbour” as an item for discussion at the next Committee meeting.

Date of Next Meeting:

It was agreed that the Committee would meet prior to the end of the year and a date would be decided nearer the time.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed on the 26th day of OCTOBER, 2015


Chairperson