



Transportation, Environment and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 14th June, 2021 at 2.00pm
Via MS Teams

Present:	Cllr. Paddy Bracken (in the Chair), Cllr. Willie Aird, Cllr. Noel Tuohy, Cllr. Ben Brennan, Cllr. John Joe Fennelly, Mr. John Talbot, Ms. Deirdre Hopkins -O'Connell	Laois County Council Laois County Council Laois County Council Laois County Council Laois County Council Farming Sector Trade Union Sector
In Attendance:	Mr. Simon Walton, Mr. Adrian Barrett, Ms. Louise McEvoy,	Director of Services Senior Engineer, Roads & Transportation Administrative Officer, Roads and Transportation
Apologies:	Mr. John Killeen,	Construction Sector

1. Quorum present.

Confirmed

2. Confirmation of Minute of SPC Meeting held on 8th March 2021

On the proposal of Cllr. Willie Aird and seconded by Cllr. Noel Tuohy, the minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2021 were agreed.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising.

4. Director of Services' Progress Report

Mr. Simon Walton advised that application for Local Improvement Schemes was submitted to Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) on Friday last and been approved. 84 applications for LIS are outstanding; 85% relate to Eastern and Western areas and date back to 2007/2008, LIS applications for Central area date back to 2019. The decision taken for this year by Laois County Council was to fund schemes on a countywide, date order basis and to refer the matter to the Transportation SPC with a view to agreeing a policy for the allocation of LIS funds from 2022 onwards. At the September meeting there will be a detailed analysis provided of the LIS applications and a policy will be devised for distributing LIS funds from 2022 onwards.

5. Draft policy for naming of infrastructure

Adrian Barrett S.E. Roads circulated the Draft Laois County Council Policy housing and infrastructure naming policy and it was agreed that a hard copy would issue to SPC Members for consideration and in-depth discussion at September's meeting. The final draft will issue in the first week of August to allow Members time to consider the final draft in advance of the SPC Meeting.

6. Public Transport Policy/National Transport Authority

Following previous broad discussions on bus routes and public transport generally it was agreed to include this item on the agenda. Simon Walton DOS advised members that the National Transport Authority (NTA) is the licencing authority for all commercial bus services in the state with oversight of all rural transport. The Local Authority is responsible for designating bus stops, providing supporting infrastructure and to promote the use of bus network. Laois County Council has engaged with the NTA "Connecting Ireland" programme which has a target to provide regular, journey-time and visit-time based bus services that provide connectivity for County Towns, Local Centres, Villages and other, Additional Settlements. A prioritised programme for Bus Shelter enhancement will be presented to the SPC at a future meeting.

7. Road Safety /Draft Hedge cutting policy

Adrian Barrett SE gave a presentation on hedge cutting including the legislation, responsibilities, the processes involved etc. Some discussion followed on hedge cutting generally. Taking account of the discussions, a draft hedge cutting policy will be brought to the SPC in September for approval.

8. Correspondence

None

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 6th September at 2.00pm

This concluded the business of the meeting

Signed:



Cllr. Paddy Bracken
SPC Chairperson

Date:

