



Transportation, Environment and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 8th March, 2021 at 2.00pm
Via MS Teams

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

1. Confirmation of Minute of SPC Meeting held on 20th December 2020

On the proposal of Cllr. John Joe Fennelly and seconded by Cllr. Noel Tuohy, the minutes of the meeting held on 20th December 2020 were agreed with no matters arising.

2. Director of Services' Progress Report

Mr. Simon Walton reviewed the 2020 work of this SPC in terms of the committee's planned programme of work for the year, namely:

- River Drainage Maintenance 5 year plan and works completed in 2020.
- SPC policy formulation in relation to parking and its 3 pilot sites - Mountrath, Abbeyleix and Mountmellick.
- Environmental Green Waste – direct operation by LCC of the Civic Amenity Site, review of charges and introduction of new software at weighbridge at Kyletalesha.

3. SPC Programme of Work 2021

The Meeting considered a brief presentation on potential policy areas which could form the SPC's programme of work for 2021:

a. *Climate Change*

- Public Awareness
- Public Realm
- C&D Waste management

b. *Transportation*

- Road Safety
- Smarter Travel, sustainable commuting
- Biodiversity/Hedgecutting

- Community Involvement/Local Improvement Schemes

c. **Fire Safety**

- Keeping Communities Safe

The committee members welcomed the presentation and agreed that these topics would form the basis for a 2021 programme of work. Specific issues raised (to be considered from a policy perspective) included:

- Issue of bring banks and their availability
- Development potential for tourism in respect of rivers in the county
- Hedge cutting/Hedge Cutting waste
- Strategic view in relation to bus routes and transport
- River Drainage Maintenance
- Resilience in water supply
- Issues of electricity supply and capacity of existing network
- Role of SPC in publicising the issue of Climate Change

It was agreed that the following would be brought forward for discussion at the next meeting:

- Draft Hedge Cutting policy
- NTA proposals and policy issues re public transport

4. Draft Infrastructure Naming Policy

Mr Adrian Barrett presented a second draft of the Infrastructure Naming Policy for the Members' approval.

The committee noted that this draft required further minor amendments and further noted that the policy was also being considered by the Planning Department with a view to integrating this Naming Policy with existing Placenames Committee policies.

Accordingly, it was agreed that a final draft would be circulated to the members for approval in advance of the next meeting.

5. Correspondence

None

6. Meeting Schedule for 2021

The following subsequent meeting dates/times were agreed:

- 14th June at 2.00pm
- 6th September at 2.00pm
- 6th December at 2.00pm

This concluded the business of the meeting

Signed:



Cllr. Paddy Bracken
SPC Chairperson

Date:

14/6/21.