



Transportation, Environment and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 7th March, 2022 at 2.00pm
In Aras an Chontae

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

1. Quorum present.

Confirmed

2. Confirmation of Minute of SPC Meeting held on 6th December 2021

On the proposal of Cllr. John Joe Fennelly and seconded by John Killeen, the minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2021 were agreed.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising.

4. Director of Services' Progress Report

Mr. Simon Walton reviewed the work of the SPC to date in particular the Housing and Infrastructure Naming Policy adopted at January 2022 meeting and Litter Management Plan approved at February 2022 Council Meeting. Both policies are now in place.

5. Priority projects for 2022

Mr. Simon Walton invited the Members of the SPC to highlight any policy areas that they wished to prioritise for 2022.

Ms. Deirdre O'Connell Hopkins opened the discussion on funding of civil defence services and other emergency services. Cllr Ben Brennan commended the excellent work of the civil defence and in particular Liam Preston, Civil Defence Officer. Mr. Simon Walton stated the Civil Defence/Emergency Services will be included as an agenda item for the next meeting.

6. School Sustainable Travel Study of Portlaoise: - Presentation by An Taisce

Representatives from An Taisce gave the SPC Members a very comprehensive presentation on studies they have carried out on travel patterns in and around Portlaoise town. The presentation was very well received by all and the work of An Taisce on the study was commended by the Members. Mr. Simon Walton confirmed that the outcomes on the various studies will be integrated, as appropriate, into the various Smarter Travel works programmes.

7. Hedgecutting

Mr. Adrian Barrett gave a presentation on hedgecutting in the county with a view to agreeing a policy on hedgecutting and putting in place an Autumn Hedgecutting Programme. There was some discussion around hedgecutting.

Cllr Fennelly raised the issue of the cost of disposing of clippings at Kyletalesha and he claimed that the charges in Laois are greater than in other counties. Mr. Simon Walton agreed to investigate.

8. Correspondence

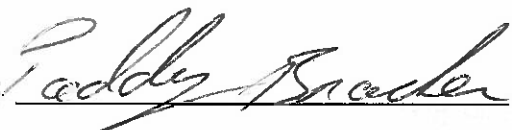
None

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 13th June at 2.00pm

This concluded the business of the meeting

Signed:



Cllr. Paddy Bracken
SPC Chairperson

Date:

