

File Ref: Env/SPC	Date/Time: 7 <sup>th</sup> September, 2.00 pm	Dunamaise Theatre, Portlaoise.
Subject:	<b>Transportation, Environment &amp; Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee</b>	
Present:	Cllr. Paddy Bracken (in the Chair), Cllr. John Joe Fennelly, Cllr. Willie Aird, Cllr. Ben Brennan.	Ms. Deirdre O’Connell-Hopkins, Trade Union Rep., Mr. John Killeen, Construction Rep.,
In Attendance:	Mr. Simon Walton, Director of Services, Mr. Adrian Barrett, SE, Roads.	Ms. Georgina Ireland, AO, Roads.
Apologies:	Cllr Noel Tuohy.	

Item	Description	Action Required
1	<p><b>Opening of Meeting</b></p> <p>Cllr Bracken welcomed all to the meeting and particularly welcomed new member, Ms. Deirdre O’Connell-Hopkins, Trade Union representative. He also referred to the scheduled presentation at the end of this meeting by Professor Tom Butler, UCC and advised that, due to unforeseen circumstances, Prof. Butler was unable to attend and accordingly the presentation would be rescheduled.</p> <p>There was some discussion in relation to the appropriate forum for this presentation and it was agreed that this would be raised for discussion at Corporate Policy Group.</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. Willie Aird and seconded by Cllr. John Joe Fennelly, the minutes of SPC meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 were approved.</p>	
3	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Mr. Simon Walton recapped on the proposed Programme of Work as agreed by this committee and added that this programme is subject to ongoing review as the members wish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road Safety Plan for Co. Laois.</li> <li>• Casual Trading Bye-Laws</li> <li>• River Drainage</li> <li>• Fire Service Charging</li> <li>• Group Water Schemes – energy efficiency schemes, energy audits</li> <li>• Parking Control Measure</li> <li>• Community Fire Safety</li> <li>• Review of civic amenity site operations</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that per previous presentation, Mr. Declan Power, CFO would revert to this committee with a view regarding the feasibility of chimney cleaning certificates.</p>	

Item	Description	Action Required
4	<p><b>County Laois Road Safety Plan</b></p> <p>Mr. Adrian Barrett, Senior Engineer, Roads and Transportation made a presentation in relation to the Road Safety Plan (copy attached), presenting both national and county statistics in that regard. He also presented in detail the measures taken by Laois County Council to ensure road safety under a number of headings.</p> <p>The members thanked Mr. Barrett for his comprehensive presentation and the following issues were raised and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The importance of Low Cost Safety Schemes and funding for same.</li> <li>- Possible speed issues coming into Arles village following the realignment of the N80 at Maidenhead – Cllr. Ben Brennan requested that this would be examined and appropriate signage erected.</li> <li>- Request for a review of Winter Maintenance 2020/2021 routes.</li> <li>- Development of cycle lanes both in urban and rural settings. It was noted that a Cycling Officer would be appointed in the coming months.</li> <li>- Scope for allocating funding for staff in the roll out of road safety measures.</li> <li>- The issue of hedge cutting by private landowners to ensure safe sightlines on public roads. It was noted that a public notice would issue at the beginning of hedge cutting season to advise the importance of this.</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that in the most recent NOAC report that road safety is highlighted as a very important issue and perceived by the public as one of the most important services that Laois County Council provides.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. Paddy Bracken and seconded by Cllr. Willie Aird, it was agreed that the Road Safety Working Together Safely Group would be reconvened to address specific road safety issues in County Laois and, in turn, developing important relationships with An Garda Síochána and other appropriate interest groups.</p>	

Item	Description	Action Required
5	<p><b>Parking Control Measures</b></p> <p>Ms. Georgina Ireland, Administrative Officer, Roads and Transportation provided an update on progress of proposed measures for parking at 3 pilot sites previously agreed by this committee, Abbeyleix, Mountrath and Mountmellick. (copy presentation attached).</p> <p>It was recommended and agreed that proposals for the introduction of 2hr time limited parking during normal business hours be published for public consultation.</p> <p>Proposals for the other two sites will be progressed in the coming months and an updates given to the SPC.</p> <p>The members thanked Ms. Ireland for her update. The following comments were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cllr. Bracken stated that any proposals to remove paid parking in Mountmellick would support local business and encourage footfall in the town centre.</li> <li>- Cllr. Fennelly made reference to compensatory works that would be needed to ensure safety of users of the public car parks in Mountrath e.g., lighting.</li> </ul>	
7	<p><b>Development of Policy for Naming of Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Mr. Simon Walton advised that this matter was previously raised at a Council Meeting and it was agreed that the matter would be brought to this committee for discussion and development of a policy.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was agreed that in an effort to examine a formal arrangement in this regard, examples of such policies/scenarios from other counties would be presented to the next meeting of this committee.</p>	
8	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>None</p>	
9	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting of this SPC will take place on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> October, at 2pm.</p>	
	<p>This concluded the business of the meeting.</p>	