

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Infrastructure Policy,
Transportation, Fire and Emergency Services Issues held in County Hall on
Friday 2nd June 2017.**

Present: Cllr. Matt Doran (Chairman).

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach; Cllr. Michael Doyle; Cllr. Michael McCarthy; Cllr. Fidelis Doherty; Cllr. Eamon Aylward.

Ms. Mairead Phelan; Mr. Michael Rice.

In Attendance: Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services; Mr. Michael Murphy, Acting Senior Engineer, Roads; Mr. Seamus Kavanagh A/S.E.E Kilkenny City; Mr. Martin Butler, Administrative Officer.

Apologies: Mr. Gary Graham; Mr. Barry Lynch.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of previous meeting of SPC 2 held on 3rd March 2017.

Proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty

Seconded by Cllr. Michael Doyle
and Agreed.

2. ELECTRIC CARS.

The Chairman Cllr. Matt Doran welcomed Mr. Paddy Phelan, Manager of Carlow-Kilkenny Energy Agency (CKEA) to the meeting.

Mr. Phelan then gave a presentation on electric cars. In January 2017 a total of 215 electric cars were sold in Ireland and 470 electric cars sold in 2016. Major cities like London and Barcelona are making strategic plans to ban diesel vehicles by 2022-2025 because of emissions and pollution. New electric vehicles now have a travel range of between 100 and 400 kms before needing to be recharged.

In County Kilkenny 12 electric points are located with 8 of them situated in Kilkenny City. Charging time ranges from 6-8 hrs for domestic, 1-6 hrs for public charging points and 20 to 45 minutes for fast charging points such as Knocktopher. Eight year warranties for batteries now available with most vehicles. No cost at present for using the public charging points. It is forecast that 37% of vehicles will be electric by 2030.

Mr. Michael Murphy informed the meeting that Kilkenny County Council is presently pricing electric vans for use in the city-Nissan vans and Renault vans. An economic assessment will be concluded prior to a decision on the use of electric vans by the Council. While the proposed new city bus service will not be electric there will be a provision in the tender process for future use of electric or low carbon emission busses in the future.

3. Car Parking.

Mr. Seamus Kavanagh circulated to the meeting details of current private and public car spaces available in the city. A review of car parking charges is underway with the aim of providing a tiered system of new tariffs to reduce the number of cars parking in city centre. The car parking review is taking place in conjunction with the investment by the National Transport Authority (NTA) of a city bus service. Following this review a report will be prepared for consideration by the Council prior to any proposed changes in parking charges taking place.

4. School Safety Programme

Mr. Michael Murphy referred to the school safety programme implemented over 9 years ago and at that time an audit was carried out of all schools throughout the county. A maintenance review of existing safety works is now underway. A number of new school safety programmes are planned this year under the Clár programme such as Windgap and Kilmoganny. A new school safety programme is planned later this year. The need for improved driver behaviour and education was discussed at the meeting and considered necessary to improve safety at schools.

Following further discussion it was agreed by the committee that a notice of motion should be drafted for the Council meeting for submission to the Department of Education. The notice of motion should request the Department of Education to consider the inclusion of school safety measures when preparing proposals for any future primary or secondary school improvement works.

5. Policy in relation to underpass for farm animals.

Mr. Michael Murphy informed the meeting that Road Design in general is in favour of the principle of road underpasses which leads to a safer road network for farmers and all road users. However, grant aid is not available for the provision of underpasses. A letter from the IFA issued to Mr. Michael Rice

sought support from Kilkenny County Council in terms of planning approval and road opening licences where appropriate for farmers who wish to install animal underpasses on the public road network.

Following a discussion it was agreed that a notice of motion be drafted for the Council meeting for submission to the Department of Agriculture requesting consideration to the establishment of a grant support scheme for farmers wishing to install animal underpasses on the public road network.

6. Parking Areas at motorway junctions.

This matter was raised recently with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) who confirmed that they do not have a policy in relation to this matter and that it is a matter for each local authority to prepare a policy for their own area. Following a discussion it was agreed to have the matter raised and discussed at national level by the Director of Services at their meetings.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Friday 8th September 2017

This concluded the business of the meeting.

1st December 2017 3.30 Secretariat, Gal. Rd.