

County Wicklow Public Participation Network

Representative Report

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Name of Committee: Transportation, Water & Emergency Services SPC

Name of Representative: Tim Morgan

Date of Meeting Attended: 7th July 2021 (via Zoom)

Most important actions or issues to emerge from a County Wicklow PPN perspective:

The Agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1. To note minutes of SPC meeting of 13th April 2021
2. To note update on Public Lighting / PLEEP & recent Dark Skies presentation
3. NTA Schemes Update
4. GDA Transport Strategy Review & Update from Cllr Mitchell as representative on steering Group
5. Update TII Funded Projects
6. Fire Services Policy Update
7. Water Services Policy Update
8. AOB
9. Next Meeting 12th October 2021 Provisional

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Derek Mitchell. The minutes of the previous SPC meeting of 13th of April were taken as read. Apologies Mike Flynn Sen Engineer, Tomas Peare.

2. To note update on Public Lighting / PLEEP & recent Dark Skies presentation

Pat Clarke of Roads section of WCC gave a report and referred to Prof Espey's presentation on Best Practice Public Lighting to the Council and others by zoom which the rep attended on 9th of June last.

Public lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP) is a regional project (being managed by Kilkenny Co. Co. with eight other LAs) to upgrade the existing public lighting lanterns to energy efficient LEDs and is currently at tender document preparation stage. Arup are consultants for the work.

Mr Clarke discussed the colour of LED public lights, how they can be dimmed and trimmed (reduction in hours of light operation) and that safety is a concern. He mentioned that the early-installed LED lights may have been too white but they are better now (less than 3,000 kelvin). The fact that some LED lights are installed right on the top of a pole without any extension arm was discussed. The Council is at the behest of the ESB on this matter.

Cllr Behan was concerned about dimming and possible impact on poorly lit rural areas. It was suggested that dark skies are better suited for national park areas than normal urban/rural locations.

The committee confirmed that a written update be forwarded to the Chair of Climate & Biodiversity Action SPC with a note of confirmation that a guidance document is being prepared by WCC public lighting team which would be made available to the CABA SPC by the end of the year.

Queries on public lighting can be sent by email to Wicklow County Council Public Lighting team at publiclighting2@wicklowcoco.ie

3. NTA Schemes Update

In Mike Flynn's absence Conor Page reported on this item. The general headings for his presentation were:

- GDA Transport Strategy Review
- GDA Cycle Network Plan Review
- BusConnects
- Dart+ Coastal
- Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund
- Sustainable Transport Measures Grants (STMG) projects

Under BusConnects Conor stated the EIA report is to be assessed and 16 routes are to go before the board. An update is due this month. Under Dart+ he said there is to be an increased frequency of service to Bray and Greystones. Arup have updated the Council. Services are to be extended to the south to Wicklow.

The Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund provides for short term measures to allow people to get outdoors.

Cllr Mitchell said work is needed to widen the road at Bray Head from the south as cyclists are delaying buses going up the hill. Also Dart+ must include Wicklow and Arklow and the same train from Dublin without changing at Greystones. Bray Head is the pinch point on the rail line.

Under Sustainable Transport Measures Grant his summary slide showed that the 2021 Allocation is €7.62m and the progress to date included:

Works completed on 12 projects
Construction ongoing on 9 projects
24 projects at Design Stage
16 projects at Procurement Stage

Conor said the council is liaising with the NTA regarding design and progress of the projects.

The rep asked if he could list some of the completed projects just for information purposes. This was done subsequent to the meeting. The projects are located in Bray (2), Greystones (3), Bray-to-Greystones cliff walk, Ashford, Enniskerry, Kilcoole, Avoca, Hollywood and Knockanna. The works are mainly upgrades to footpaths and cycle lanes, e.g. improvement of the footpath linking Avoca to the Meeting of the Waters.

Colm Lavery said the transport study in Arklow was an example of a STMG project and includes access to Arklow town. Consultants have been appointed. Cllr Fitzgerald enquired about funding for the cycle lane to the south of Arklow.

4. GDA Transport Strategy Review - Update from Cllr Mitchell as representative on steering/advisory Group.

Cllr Mitchell said the Chairs of seven LA SPCs within the Greater Dublin Area form a committee and they have had four meetings this year.

At Blanchardstown they did detailed assessments of demand. West Wicklow and Bray to Arklow are areas to be done. A Navan rail line is being considered. Changes to the proposed Metro discussed included option of Luas to Rathfarnham. He said once Cherrywood is developed it will have an impact on Wicklow.

A link for the GDA Transport Strategy Review is given below.

<https://www.nationaltransport.ie/consultations/greater-dublin-area-transport-strategy/>

5. Update on TII Funded Projects

Council Engineer John Bowes gave the following updates summarised below:

N11 Parallel Service Road at Kilmacanogue – currently working on foul sewer diversion for Irish Water and gantries are being installed in mid-July. The construction of the splitter islands will also commence in July. Completion date expected is mid-August.

M11/N11 J4 to J14 Improvement Scheme – It was hoped to announce the preferred option routes in the coming weeks but need to be cognisant of holiday period which may not suit for public consultation, now likely August or September.

Bus Priority Interim Project – will be delivered in advance of main scheme and the measures to be compatible with the main scheme. To be funded by TII also

N81 – resurfacing works from Blessington to Russborough House to be carried out during July and August and smaller works at Hollywood Lower and Saunders Grove to Ballymacrow upper over will be completed in July. Public lighting upgrade at Hollywood & Lambs junction funding received from TII at the end of June.

CLlr Behan had a query on the progress of the footpath from Kilmacanogue to Bray. It was confirmed that this will not be progressed by TII and will not form part of the Parallel Service Road Scheme. The preferred offline route is being progressed as the Kilmacanogue Greenway scheme. It was noted that consultants were drafting a report on four possible greenway routes, and with CPOs is likely to be a long process.

Colm Lavery stated that safety was the issue as the speed limit at this location would increase to 100km/h. Although some pedestrians are walking behind the crash barrier it is not considered safe and TII will not agree to footpath alongside the road.

6. Fire Services Policy Update

Aidan Dempsey, CFO, gave an update on the Full Time Fire Service review. He gave a presentation entitled 'Full Time Fire Service for Bray' which was a brief synopsis of a detailed report.

The chronology was as follows: 2007 Draft report, 2014 Report based on National Standards and 2020 Update of 2014 report. He summarised the process as follows:

- Carry out an assessment of the Bray Fire Station area to determine the "Area Risk Categorisation" based on national standards.
- Assess the Fire Cover/Operational Response in terms of the Risk Categorisation identified.
- Present the Area Risk Categorisation and associated report to National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) for independent review.

The population of Bray is around 30,000 and the projections for north Wicklow were discussed. There is no census until 2022.

There was a lot of detailed analysis within the report and, for example, Bray has annualised incidents of about one per day (377/year). One conclusion was that the retained fire crew can reach 95% of the population of the Bray area within 10 minutes.

The CFO referred to a Community Smoke Alarm Scheme to help deprived areas where fewer smoke alarms are installed in houses. He felt the PPN network could be used to reach such areas.

CLlr Behan requested a copy of the detailed report which had only become available. He wanted to meet with the CFO and the Director of Services, and asked that Bray MD be involved.

It was noted by the committee that review of need for Full Time Fire Service is a matter for this SPC in the first instance and will be reviewed at this level, however Members of Bray MD may wish to be involved.

Colm Lavery, Director of Services highlighted that what was presented at the meeting by the CFO was previously discussed in detail at SPC meeting of September 2020.

There are implications across the county in fire service provision. The WCC report was submitted to NDFEM and we await their independent review. The assessment of NDFEM is expected imminently and as soon as received will be circulated to this SPC for review and full discussion at the next SPC.

7. Water Services Policy Update

Helena Dennehy, Senior Executive Officer advised that talks in relation to next steps for the end of the Service-Level Agreement (SLA) between Irish Water and LAs were ongoing but there was no recommendations as yet. SPC members will be kept briefed as information received.

Cllr Behan said that Irish Water clinics for elected members were not working and that they haven't done their research on cases. IW are good at responding but are not good on strategic issues.

Cllr Fitzgerald brought up the long standing issue of the nitrate in the Barndarrig water supply and where they are relying on bottled water. The matter had been brought to the attention of IW. He felt there was not enough contact with the residents affected.

He also said an alternative supply was available but some work would be required. It was advised that safety was a priority and that Irish Water hope to lift 'Do Not Consume' notice shortly but a date was yet to be confirmed.

In response to Cllr Mitchell's question it is not clear yet if council staff will have to transfer to Irish Water. Cllr Behan said he was happy with the present set up.

8. AOB

Cllr Blake asked if the Speed Limit Review had been completed. He was advised that the review was a six month process which was due to commence in Q4 this year.

9. Next Meeting

12th Oct 2021 @ 9.30am/2.30pm TBC.