

# 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:** 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 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 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021
2. NTA Schemes Update
3. GDA Transport Strategy Review & Update from Cllr Mitchell as rep on steering/advisory Group
4. Update TII Funded Projects
5. Other Road projects & operations update
6. Fire Services Policy Update
7. Water Services Policy Update
8. AOB
9. Next Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 Provisional

### 1. Minutes of previous meeting

The meeting was chaired initially by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald and later by Cllr Derek Mitchell. The minutes of the previous SPC meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> of July were taken as read. Mike Flynn Sen Engineer, joined the meeting late. (Note, the items on the agenda were not taken in the order given above.)

### 4. Update of TII Funded Projects

As Mike Flynn was not present this was the first item discussed and Council official John Bowes presented. He started with the N11/M11 J4 to J14 road improvement scheme. The preferred option (On-line Red corridor) has been selected and the extended online Public Display continued until the 4<sup>th</sup> of October.

The other components of the preferred option for the scheme are enhancements to the bus service along the N11/M11 (and wider area) and road based measures to improve operational efficiency and safety (including new parallel roads adjacent to the N11/M11 mainline, plus improvement to junctions, etc.).

New bus services are envisioned connecting Bray and towns further to the south to Dublin city centre. These are in addition to the services being proposed under the Bus Connects programme by the NTA.

An assessment on the feasibility of providing bus lanes on the N11/M11 is also progressing to see if it can offer an interim solution in advance of the main road improvement scheme.

John Bowes said consultation is possible at all stages and surveys are ongoing and updates are on the [n11m11.ie](http://n11m11.ie) website. An update will be published soon on the Bus Priority Interim Scheme. The new parallel roads at Kilmacanogue are nearly complete and the N11 road speed will increase from 60 km/h to 100km/h.

Mr Bowes also referred to works on the N81 which are largely complete and to the 'Four Studies' scheme, also along the N81, which is still with TII. He said consultants DBFL have been appointed for the Blessington relief road.

Discussion focussed on the N11/M11 and Cllr Behan was still disappointed at the lack of a footpath from Bray to Kilmacanogue. He asked if there was a need for a safety audit on that section of road. He was told the Council are in favour but TII who are funding are not.

Cllr Mitchell was sympathetic towards the need for a footpath from Bray to Kilmacanogue. He felt there was a need for more study around Bray and Coynes Cross and was concerned about the proposed closure of J10 Delgany. He also felt there should be a better link between Willow Grove and Kilpedder to avoid the N11.

John Bowes said that the slip roads at J10 do not meet current standards and that it was less than 1km to J11. Aidan Cleary of Arup explained that they first looked at retaining and improving the slip road at J10 but it was not feasible as the N11 mainline would have to move to the west. He also referred to the accident history at J10.

The presentation of the N11/M11 preferred route to the Council was covered in the 8<sup>th</sup> of September edition of the Wicklow People. The concerns of various councillors are described there. It is noted that the SE rail line was not included in the preferred option.

#### 6. Fire Services Policy Update

This was the next item discussed and Aidan Dempsey, Chief Fire Officer, presented a number of documents with a lot of detail in relation to the need for the provision of a full time fire service for Bray.

He started with the chronology of reporting which he described as the 2007 draft report, the 2014 report on National Standards and the 2020 update on the 2014 report. He went on to talk about the process and Area Risk Categorisation (ARC) for Bray fire station.

In his 15-page report 'The provision of a Full-time Fire Service in Bray (2020)' to the Director of Services the CFO listed the following background reports:

*March 2007 - Draft Feasibility Study for Full Time Fire Service for Bray by James Dunphy, Chief Fire Officer*

*March/April 2013 - A Review of the Standards of Fire Cover for the town of Bray by John Spence, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service*

*December 2014 - Report on Issues relating to the provision of a Full Time Fire Service in Bray and North Wicklow by Aidan Dempsey, Chief Fire Officer*

The CFO went through a series of annexes to his 2020 report which included maps of Isochrone Drive Time Boundaries for both Bray and Greystones (showing 5, 10, 15 & 20 minute isochrones) and Risk Categorisation tables. The Bray map showed that Bray fire crew can reach most of Bray and Kilmacanogue in 5 minutes.

The CFO said the population of Bray for fire purposes is around 30,000 and Bray fire station is servicing about 33,000 people.

The CFO also presented the following report: Area Risk Categorisation - Wicklow Fire Service - 'A Review of Service Provision within the Operational Boundary of Bray Fire Station by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management' (NDFEM) (Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage) dated June 2021. The conclusions of the report are given below. Note KCS is a reference to Keeping Communities Safe, a policy document produced in February 2013 by NDFEM, which is the blueprint for the future direction of the fire service.

*The categorisation of the risk profile for Bray fire station area as medium risk, using the documentation and supporting evidence provided, is consistent across all three reviews. This categorisation is in accordance with national processes and guidance, as contained in KCS.*

*Each of the three reviews concludes that one (1) Retained pumping appliance in the Bray fire station area, to attend incidents is commensurate with its fire risk within a timeframe of ten (10) minutes. It is noted that the current provision in Bray fire station, is two (2) Retained pumping appliances.*

*Having reviewed the reports as described above, it is our conclusion that the professional judgement, exercised by the Chief Fire Officer in this instance, to maintain two (2) retained pumping appliances in Bray is appropriate, safe and sensible.*

*As census data and empirical evidence continue to be updated, regular reviews of the ARC should continue to be undertaken with a view to determining if changes in population disposition produces any corresponding changes in either fire hazard, fire risk or fire service activity. Such reviews should continue to take account of national policy and guidance and to include discussion with adjoining fire services. It will be noted that all development in the built environment is subject to relevant fire safety standards and regulations and that this factor, along with community fire safety initiatives will continue to impact on overall fire risk assessments.*

### 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. SPC members will be kept briefed as information is received.

Cllr Mitchell noted that Wexford County Council was criticised following the fault that occurred at a water treatment plant supplying Gorey. The Director of Services confirmed that in Wicklow the Council operate the water and wastewater treatment plants on behalf of Irish Water. If there is a fault then staff get alerted.

He said Irish Water is to carry out a review of the operation of all water treatment plants.

Cllr Behan said the response of IW to queries at clinics is very poor. He wanted to ensure IW would be present to answer any queries. The Director of Services said the Council meet IW at Tier 2 level and issues can be raised there.

Apparently a recent bad odour in Greystones was not due to the wastewater treatment plant but to agricultural activity.

### 3. GDA Transport Strategy Review & Update from Cllr Mitchell as rep on steering/advisory Group

Cllr Mitchell said he was unavailable to attend the last meeting of the review and had no report to make.

### 2. NTA Schemes Update

Under transportation update the main headings of Senior Transportation Engineer Mike Flynn's presentation were as follows:

- *Non-National Road Schemes*
- *NTA funded schemes*
- *URDF funded projects*
- *Other Projects to note*
  - GDA Transport Strategy Review*
  - BusConnects*
  - Public Lighting LED retro-fit*
  - Speed Limit review*

## *Non-National Road Schemes*

*Wicklow funding allocation 2021 €16.2m (DTTAS funding)*

- *Road improvement works, surface dressing, Bridge maintenance, drainage works – projects substantially complete*
- *Specific improvement Schemes – Ballinaclesh and Glendalough junction improvements complete.*
- *Cunningham’s corner improvement works are ongoing.*

## *NTA Funded Schemes*

*Wicklow funding allocation 2021 €8.2m*

- *Sustainable transportation*
  - Design of new schemes*
  - Implementation of projects*
- *Covid/Stimulus 2020 - contractual liability*
- *Safe to schools - 3 schemes*
- *Additional Outdoor infrastructure*

## *Urban/Rural Regeneration and Development Funded (URDF) Schemes*

*Wicklow funding Allocation 2021 €17.0m*

- *Bray Public Transport Bridge*
- *Arklow Public Realm*
- *Fitzwilliam Square, Wicklow town*
- *Baltinglass town centre*
- *Newtownmountkennedy*
- *Further Applications – Rathdrum and Blessington*

## 5. Other Road projects & operations update

Under Other Projects the following information was presented:

- *GDA Transportation Strategy Review*
  - A review of the GDA transportation Strategy is ongoing. Due for completion early 2022.*
- *BusConnects*
  - Preliminary design is being completed for each corridor and an application to An Bord Pleanala is scheduled for later this year.*
- *Public Lighting LED retro-fit*
  - Tender for works contract has issued.*
- *Speed Limit Review*
  - A countywide review of all speed limits will commence in the next week.*

Mike Flynn then joined the meeting.

Cllr Behan brought up the controversy around the Bray Public Transport Bridge. He asked about the consultation that took place between Ballymore Homes, who have acquired the old golf club site at the harbour, and the Council. He also said that Seapoint Court residents are going to be affected by the new bridge.

Mike Flynn stated that the bridge is for the Luas when it comes to Bray and it is funded under the URDF. It is shovel ready. The council met with Ballymore who are to make a contribution towards the cost of the bridge. The screening for the bridge was done by consultants but in view of the controversy about the swan sanctuary An Bord Pleanala (ABP) are to look at it again.

The Luas line is to run between the DART line and the properties referred to by Cllr Behan.

With regard to the speed limit review the Council asked the MDs to bring any concerns to it.

Mike Flynn said that the Bray footpaths were funded.

Cllr Mitchell said that the Blacklion Road Greystones development is with ABP. There are 35 land owners and consultation is online.

#### 7. AOB

Cllr Mitchell said the GDA Transport Strategy review will be put out for consultation in October.

#### 8. Next meeting

This meeting had been brought forward from the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2021 due to the N11/M11 scheme.

There are no further meetings scheduled for the rest of 2021 though one will be called, if necessary, for the Fire Services Policy update.