

Update from Deirdre McCormack, PPN Representative on the Transportation, Infrastructure Delivery and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee (TIDES SPC)

One of the main items to be discussed at the last TIDES SPC meeting in February was the 2026 Bus Stop Enhancement Program, which is something that the Co Wicklow PPN and our members took a very active interest in.

Ahead of the February meeting members of the TIDES SPC were asked to make suggestions for locations for the installation or upgrading of bus shelters across the county of Wicklow. We were forewarned that not all suggested locations would be selected as the allocated budget was €500,000 and the estimated cost of a bus shelter and installation is estimated to be between €10k and €15k. With the help of Alice, Gráinne and Helen, all County Wicklow PPN member groups were invited to send us their suggested locations for new bus shelters or bus shelter upgrades. The PPN also invited members of the public to send in their suggestions via their social media channels. The response was fantastic and yet again demonstrated that communities have an active interest in contributing to decisions that impact their everyday lives, such as the location of bus stops and bus shelters.

I submitted a total of 62 suggested locations for bus shelter locations, bus shelter upgrades and requests for the installation of bus stop poles at existing bus stops which are currently not formally marked or indicated, on behalf of PPN member groups and communities. After doing so I received a call from TIDES SPC Chairperson Cllr Stephen Stokes to inform me that the SPC had only ever previously submitted a total of 30 suggested locations at a time and to remind me that not all of these locations would be actioned and that the decision would ultimately lie with the Wicklow Active Travel Team and the Council engineers. I discussed the response that we had received from both our member groups and the public and how passionate communities were about this issue and how important it was for their opinions and lived experiences to be included and considered during this decision making process. He agreed with me and agreed to include our submitted suggested locations.

I was unable to attend the February meeting due to a prior family commitment so was not able to contribute to this agenda item but I did note that the number of submissions and the PPN's role in consulting our members and the public was mentioned in a Wicklow People article on March 23rd 2026, available [here](#).