

Transportation, Community and Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on
Tuesday March 2nd, 2021 at 11.30am
via Microsoft Teams

Chairperson: Cllr. Raymond Aughey

Present:

Cllr. Sean Conlon	Monaghan Co. Council
Cllr. Brian Mc Kenna	Monaghan Co. Council
Cllr. Seamus Coyle	Monaghan Co. Council

In attendance from Monaghan County Council:

Patricia Monahan	Director of Services - Transportation, Community and Rural Development
Fintan Mc Phillips	Senior Executive Officer - Community Development
Gareth McMahon	A/Senior Engineer - Transportation
Grainne O Brien	Senior Executive Engineer - Transportation
Kevin West	A/Senior Executive Engineer - Transportation
Alison Condra	Administrative Officer – Transportation
Carol Lambe	Administrative Officer - Community Development
Pamela Kerr	Senior Staff Officer – Transportation

Apologies

Cllr. Hugh McElvaney	Monaghan Co. Council
Cllr. Sean Gilliland	Monaghan Co. Council
Packie Kelly	PPN- Community Pillar
Lorraine Cunningham	PPN- Social Inclusion Pillar
Ann Murray	Administrative Officer - Community Development
Kim Greenan	Clerical Officer – Community Development

The following documents were circulated to members:

- Agenda
- Minutes of meeting held on 1st December 2020
- Draft Walking & Cycling Strategy 2021 – 2026
- DTTAS Grant Allocation 2021 & TII Allocation 2021

The Chairman Cllr. Raymond Aughey welcomed members to the meeting.

1. Minutes of SPC Meeting held on 1st December 2020

On the proposal of Cllr. McKenna seconded by Cllr. Conlon the minutes of SPC meeting held on 1st December, were approved.

2. Matters arising

Cllr. Conlon requested an update on Tullybryan, it was agreed this would be covered in AOB. AC (Alison Condra) advised that the SPC's suggestions regarding the Hedge Cutting policy have been incorporated into the revised Policy as were comments from the Council's Horticulturalist and Procurement Officer. The MD's are reviewing the document and the policy will be brought back to the next meeting for adoption.

Draft Walking & Cycling Strategy – Community

Carol Lambe delivered a presentation of the MCC Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy 2021 – 2026 and requested feedback from the members. Cllr. Aughey thanked Carol for the in-depth analysis of the strategy and recommended proceeding to public consultation. The following questions, comments and requests were noted:

- Cllr. McKenna requested that GAA clubs be included in the plan.
- Cllr. McKenna also requested MCC contact Magherafelt & Dungannon District Council to discuss the potential for a cross border project at Derryvary Park in Clara.
- In response to a query as to whether consideration had been given to providing cycle facilities when resurfacing the North Road this year GMcM (Gareth McMahon) confirmed that cycle lanes could be added afterwards and would not impact on the resurfacing works.
- In response to queries and comments on the LUTS Grainne O' Brien (GO'B) advised the LUTS document was presented to Monaghan Municipal District last year and she gave updates on the status of some of the 27 recommendations in the report.
- Carol Lambe responded to questions on the content of the draft strategy and gave an update on the status of the Northern Ireland Greenway strategy and progress on the Ulster Canal greenway.
- There was a discussion on Dublin street and the provision of cycle lanes, and possible solutions to providing for cyclists on our narrow streets such as Dublin and Glaslough Street, including reducing the speed limit in the town centre from 50kph to 30kph. It was agreed that this proposal be forwarded to the Speed Limit Committee. GMcM advised the Speed limit committee has requested the Municipal Districts to provide proposals for the speed limit review scheduled for 2021 and he advised the members that the Municipal Districts should discuss the matter of reducing the speed limit at their MD meetings and advise the speed

limit committee of their proposals. He stated Glaslough and Dublin Street are both National routes so TII approval would also be required.

- GMcM advised that the NTA have developed a National Cycling Manual which provides design guidance and have also established a consultancy framework to deal with cycling infrastructure, there are 8 highly skilled consultants on the frameworks which will be utilised by MCC.
- In relation to the suitability of hard shoulders on national routes for cycle lanes, GMcM advised that hard shoulders on National roads are used to facilitate breakdown vehicles and while cyclists may avail of the hard shoulder it may not be feasible to adopt the hard shoulder into a cycling lane as this would have consequences for a busy high volume national road. However, he advised that as part of the N2 Major projects Ardee to Castleblayney and Clontibret to the Border cycling provisions will be included in the design process.
- GMcM confirmed that MCC are looking for funding from the TII for a Park & Ride in Carrickmacross however MCC must consider the Major Schemes on the N2 and ensure that it doesn't compromise the route. Potential locations have been identified.
- In response to a request that a shelter be installed at the bus stop in Annyalla. GMcM advised Alison Condra has been liaising with the NTA on this and the site will be surveyed by JC Decaux who are providing the shelters.
- CL confirmed that she had contacted the schools regarding their requirements for cycle shelters and that she was liaising with them.
- GMcM confirmed that the Monaghan Way was a recreational scheme rather than a commuter route and there were some safety issues with it. Carrickmacross MD was reviewing the route and seeking funding to reopen it safely.
- GMcM confirmed that MCC would look at enhancing privacy along the greenway routes, should the privacy of residents be impacted.
- The issue of puddling and lack of drainage on the Monaghan town Greenway was noted for addressing.
- The need to continue to provide pedestrian facilities such as footpaths was emphasised, as well as cycling facilities for the many cyclists commuting to work between Monaghan and Tyholland.
- Cllr. Aughey requested an email of the Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy is issued to all Elected members.

- Carol Lambe confirmed that a tourism plan for the county has been drafted recently one outcome has been that An Taisce have suggested a cycling route be designed from Monaghan Town out to Slieve Beagh and this will be included in the strategy.

Cllr. Mckenna proposed the Walking and Cycling Strategy is brought to public consultation before going to the full council Cllr. Aughey seconded this proposal. Patricia Monahan expressed her thanks to Carol Lambe for her work on delivering the Walking and Cycling Strategy.

3. Active Travel - Transportation

GMcM advised that significant funding for Active Travel will be announced in the coming weeks from the NTA under a multi annual funding model and would include routes to schools. Kevin West (KW) advised that 52 schemes have been applied for by MCC and it is expected a total of 1500 will be shortlisted nationally by the NTA. It was agreed that KW would issue a list of the applications from the MD's to all members. GMcM advised that no funding would be provided for projects in small rural villages or other areas outside of speed limits.

4. 2021 Roads Funding Allocations – Transportation

KW outlined explained the breakdown of the overall allocation received from DTTAS for Non-National roads. Cllr. Mckenna enquired if the CBGM and Reclaimed Asphalt roads had been agreed for 2021? KW advised that this had not been agreed and that he will be in contact with the Municipal Districts directly regarding this. GO'B outlined the breakdown of the overall allocation received from the TII for National Roads 2021.

5. Any other business

Vote of Sympathy

Fintan McPhillips requested a minute's silence to acknowledge the passing of our colleague Packie Boyle in December 2020. Cllr. Coyle requested a letter of sympathy be issued to Packie's family on behalf of the SPC committee.

6. Date of next meeting

It was agreed the next meeting of the SPC Committee will be held on the 8th June 11.30 am.